

Alfa Notizia January 2014

Great Christmas party at our *Alfano's* on December 7th. Thirty five folks in attendance, many faces we



see too seldom. A gift bag for everyone put together and decorated by Polly Clause and her Elf, Christie, included a jar of Polly's yummy, home made concord jelly, Tuscan olive oil and Italian herb mix, Alfa note pad and keychain flashlight and a gorgeous flip over, 2014 calendar with monthly photos of twelve member's Alfas. The grand prize, a gift basket of Italian wine and cheese brought back from Italy by Jeff Hanson was raffled and won by [redacted] Calcagno.

The new president and president elect for 2014, Delmas Greene and Frank Mann were introduced and "The Glass " was passed from Harmon to Delmas. "The Glass" is a small sculpture of a 1952 Disco Volante given the club by Alfa Romeo, HQ, Italy. It serves as a symbolic president's gavel but better not be broken banging on a bar ! The position of president elect is akin to vice-president and to prepare the following year's president.

Delmas and Harmon passing Glass at the Christmas party. >



Business Meeting this Thursday evening 7:30-8:30 at Jason's delicious Deli at 25801 Hwy 19 in Clearwater. It is in the Cypress Point Center on the east side of Hwy 19 just south of Enterprise. Park in the reserved law office parking lot next to Jason's, there will be Alfa Romeo signs marking it. Arrive early and have dinner with us; Jason serves large portions of healthy food for only \$7-9.00. If you're bringing your spouse, consider splitting a fare. And free soft ice cream for dessert !

Next Sunday, January 12th, is polo, We have bleachers and a tent with table trunk of their polished spider. Bring your hats, walking shoes and cameras. For the sterling service and a candelabra are



Bob & Theresa Lombardo's

The event chair is Bob Scott who must get your \$15 tickets in advance available at the gate. Bob can be reached at

boscott1097@aol.com, (817) 313-2945. Pick up your tickets at this Thursday's business meeting or Bob can mail them to you. Flyer follows.

"The Sport of Kings," at the Sarasota Polo Club. Ten thorough-deft riders whack at a little, white ball. but many choose to tailgate off of the picnic lunch, drinks, chairs, tents, wide "tailgaters," fine linen, crystal, china, encouraged, liveried staff are allowed. lives in nearby Lakewood Ranch. You through him. Tickets will **not** be

Two weeks after, on Saturday, January 25th, is a rare treat, a visit and tour of the **Collier Collection** of automobiles in the Revs Institute down in Naples. This collection and many of the cars in it are almost unbelievable and tours are by invitation only. We are fortunate that billionaire car collector/restorer, Miles Collier, lives and keeps his collection so close by (in the county named after his grandfather) and so does Bob Lombardo, pres of SWFL AROC who arranged the tour. Another tour for Alfa Owner Clubs will not be permitted for at least three years so see it now ! The tour will run from 10:00 AM -12:30 PM and will be followed by lunch at a colorful Italian bistro up in Bonita Springs so you won't have to go home hungry.

Event chair is Frank Mann, (727) 254-9723, fmann1@tampabay.rr.com. The \$15 tickets are very limited so order soon. They can be paid for at Thursday's business meeting, at the polo ground or at the gate but they must be reserved due to the limit and NLT January 12th. Naples is an almost three hour drive south of Tampa Bay so Bob has also arranged discount hotel accommodations near the Revs Institute. Contact Frank for details. Flyer follows followed by Peter DiMatteo's April, 2011 article about the collection.



On the fourth weekend of February is the prestigious *Sarasota Exotic Car Fest*. This three day event includes: Friday evening, Feb 21st – Jet Port Reception at the Rectrix Aerodome at SRQ airport; Saturday, Feb 22nd – Downtown Sarasota Concours and Saturday evening a casual dinner at the Sarasota Yacht Club; Sunday, Feb 23rd – Exotic Road Rally and closing brunch at The Founders Golf Club. Go to sarasotaexoticcarfest.org for details and registration.

Florida Alfa Club has which, in the past, has always year it will be held in the artsy display fifteen nice Alfas next to have to be concours, contact Garforth54@gmail.com, Jan 31st. Trailer parking will be arrangements will be made.



Bob Lombardo, John Rady & Buddy Guynn trophies last year

always done well reaping awards at this event been held on exclusive St Armands Circle. This center of downtown and we will have room to the Ferraris. If you have a nice Alfa, it doesn't event chair Gary Jones in Sarasota, (941) 320-7761, Registration is only \$50 until available. With enough requests hotel Nice time and place to shop for art, too.

March 6th – 9th, Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, the finest concours in the South. This four day event includes: Thursday, the 6th, RM Auction preview of cars they will auction, many for many millions of dollars; Friday, the 7th, more RM Auction preview and Great Offy Seminar; Saturday, the 8th, Cars & Coffee at the Concours sponsored by Heathcock Classic Insurance; Sunday, the 9th, the main event, the Concours d'Elegance for 250 cars of all makes and genres built before 1978 covers the 10th and 18th fairways of the Golf Club of Amelia Island. The cars must be invited and an invite isn't easy to garner! Tickets are \$80 at the gate, \$60 in advance. Complimentary street, test drives by many high end manufacturers are available daily.



Fairways 10 and 18 and adjacent

You don't have to be invited to display at the Cars & Coffee on Saturday, the 8th, is for "local car clubs." So, if you want to put your nice Alfa "on the grass at Amelia" here's your chance. And there is no registration fee. Contact event chair Delmas Greene (727) 799-1486, alfagreene@yahoo.com. No hotel arrangements or party for FAC attendees at Amelia are being made this year but Delmas & Polly are staying at the Comfort Suites (Airport), across from the Crown Plaza where we stayed last year. The rates are better and breakfast is included. (904) 741-0505. Amelia Island fills up fast for this event so reserve soon! If you want to stay in a condo between the fairways and the beach, where you can walk to the concours, contact Norm Sipple at alfaowner@sprynet.com, he has vacancies at a very good price for three days.

In April, Sunday the 6th, another posh location, the Vinoy Hotel & Resort in St Pete for the *Festivals of Speed* show. Event chair, Barry Andress is putting this together and working for free registration. If you want to put your car "on the grass" at this local show, contact Barry at barryboya@earthlink.net, (727) 942-7369.

And start getting your congestion of treasure trove sorted out for the All-Florida Swap Meet at Alfa Romeo, Inc, Headquarters in Orlando on Saturday, May 3rd. Spring cleaning!

Happy New Year 2014 !

January 9th, 7:30-8:30 PM, Business Meeting at Jason's Deli. Free soft ice cream dessert !

January 12, Sunday, Polo Match at Sarasota Polo Club. *””The Sport of Kings””* Thundering thoroughbreds and a parade of Alfas. Website is Sarasotapolo.com. Reserve tickets with Bob Scott at rscott1697@aol.com, (817) 313-2945. Tickets will not be available at the gate.

January 18th, 7:30-10:00 AM, Cars & Coffee at duPont Registry, St Pete.

January 25th, Saturday, the Collier Museum/Revs Institute in Naples, the most magnificent auto museum in the South. You have to see it to believe it. Website is RevsInstitute.org. Reserve tickets from Frank Mann, fmann1@tampabay.rr.com, (727)254-9723.

February 1st, 8:00-10:00 AM, Cars & Coffee, Suncoast Porsche, Sarasota.

February 13th, Business Meeting, 7:30-8:30. Jason's Deli. We start on time and end on time.

February 15th, 7:30-10:00 AM, Cars & Coffee, duPont Registry, St Pete.

February 21-23rd, Fri-Sun, Sarasota Exotic Car Fest. This distinguished venue is being expanded off of exclusive St Armands Circle onto the artsy streets of “downtown” Sarasota. On Saturday We will still be located near the other Italian marques on Main Street. A great display and spectator show to attend. Website is sarasotaexoticcarfest.com. Go to Contact Gary Jones, garforth54@gmail.com, (941) 320-7761.

March 1st, 8:00-10:00 AM, Cars & Coffee at Suncoast Porsche, Sarasota.

March 6-9, Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. This is the Pebble Beach of the South, a bucket list item if you've never been. Go to ameliaconcours.org to see schedule, events and tickets for this major southern auto event held in Florida.

March 13th, 7:30-8:30 PM, Business Meeting.

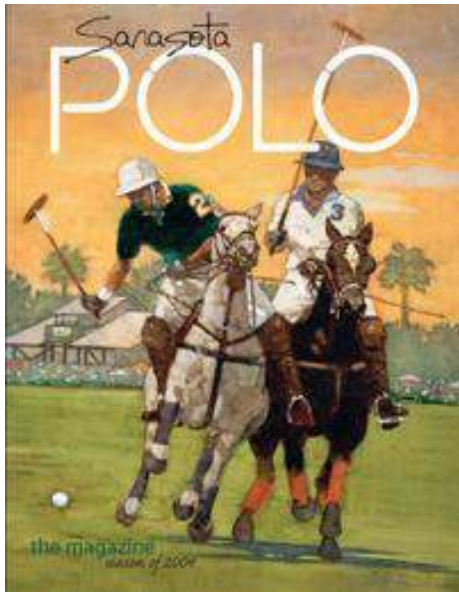
March 15th, 7:30-10:00 AM, Cars & Coffee at duPont Registry, St Pete.

April 6th, **Festivals of Speed** at the Vinoy in St Pete. Contact Barry Andress at barryboya@earthlink.net, (727) 942-7369.

May 3rd, Saturday, All-Florida Alfa Swap Meet at ARI HQ in Orlando. Clean out your garage. Delmas Greene at alfagreene@yahoo.com.

Florida Alfa Club

POLO MATCH



Sunday, January 12th,

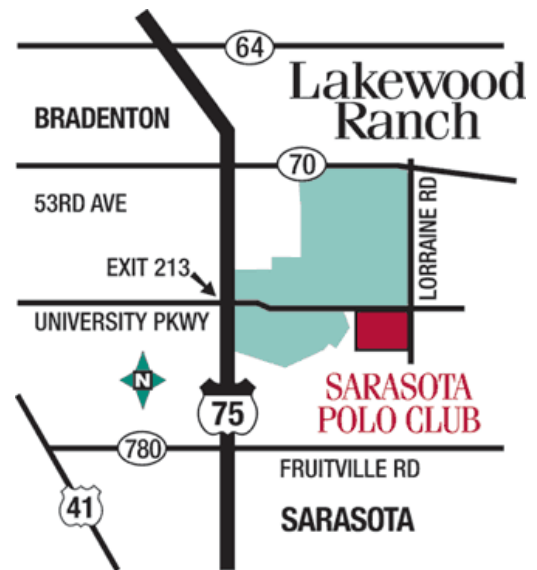
11:00~3:00

*Tailgate on the trunk of your Alfa
or picnic in the shade of our tent.
Watch ten tons of thoroughbreds*

*thunder around the field while
the riders chase and swing at
a 3" ball.*

*During halftime parade your Alfa
with the club around the field
to the cheers of the spectators
or take a
ride in the Budweiser wagon !*

*Tickets for this **King of Sports** are
only \$15 per person and must be
reserved & purchased in advance
from event chair, Bob Scott at (817)*



313-2945, RScott1697@aol.com.

Please order and pay early.

*Tickets will **not** be available at the gate.
lunch, drinks, chairs,
wide hats and walking shoes !*

Bring your picnic

Take I-75 to Exit 213 East, University Parkway. Go 3.5 miles and turn right on Lorraine Rd. Follow Alfa signs, turn right at third road into Polo Club. After check-in you will see us on the right. Please wait for parking directions. For Google, mapquest, address is: 8201 Polo Club Lane, Sarasota, FL



“The Collier Collection”

There are still a few tickets left to this exceptional event on Saturday, January 25th but if Florida Alfa Club members don't act quickly we will have to give them back to the SWFL AROC who has a waiting list. This



collection of cars is owned by Miles Collier, billionaire grandson of Barron bought 1,000,000 acres of Florida land and uncle, Miles and Sam, were two of the organizers of road racing in America; they founded the Sports Car Club of America and brought Formula 1 racing here to Watkins Glen in 1947. Sam drove the first Ferrari raced in America and was killed racing a Ferrari at “The Glen” in 1950.

Collier who, about a hundred years ago, and had it named Collier County. Miles' dad

In 1985 young Miles purchased the prestigious Briggs Cunningham collection in Cost Mesa, CA and moved it to also prestigious Naples, FL. He continued to buy rare and history changing cars and refining the collection which now consists of over 110 significant and immaculately restored autos in the Revs Institute. It isn't open to the public but Bob Lombardo, SWFL AROC pres, worked an invite for the Florida AROCs. It won't be available for at least another three years. For more eye googling info, google revsinstitute.org.



Ferrari Tipo 166 that Sam Collier was
looking at this
art deco Delahaye 175S.

FAC eve t him at (727) 254-9723,
fmann1@tampabay.rr.com. The 2 ½ hour tour, with well informed docents begins

at 10:00 AM. Tickets are only \$15 per person. Make your checks out to AROC Southwest FL. You can mail them to Frank or give them to him at the January business meeting at Jason's on the 9th or at the polo match in Sarasota on the 13th. Tickets will not be available at the Collection site. Frank needs to get the checks to Bob NLT Jan 15th. This is a limited attendance event.

The Revs Institute, in Naples, is about 3 hours south of Tampa/St Pete. It is well worth the drive ! Signori Lombardo has made arrangements for reduced rates at a nearby motel for the groups of FAC, Mid-Florida AROC and South Florida AROC members that will be driving down Friday afternoon/evening. After the tour Bob has also made arrangements for lunch at a colorful Italian bistro north of Naples in Bonita Springs so you won't go home hungry.

There are only a few tickets left so contact Frank soon !

COLLIER AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM



**1934 Alfa Romeo
Tipo 8C 2300**

Arguably the finest pre-war sports racing car, the 2300 had no master, and few peers — docile in traffic yet savage on the open road. Four consecutive victories at the famed 24-hour Le Mans race says it all.

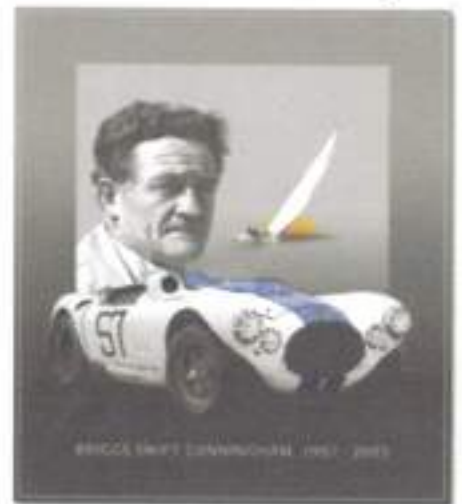
No pictures allowed inside !!!!

On another beautiful Southwest Florida day, about 70 Alfisti and friends from the Orlando, Tampa, Miami, and Southwest chapters met and descended on a mostly unknown piece of real estate in Naples. The Collier museum is no longer a museum but a private and significant collection of sporting cars that span time from 1898 to the 1980's.



The entire collection consists of about 110 cars of which maybe 10% at any time are out at races, touring or shows. All cars in the collection are driven at least once a year. To do so requires meticulous prep and maintenance. Since photos are not allowed to be taken, the majority of pictures here are from the internet of Collier's cars at various events.

The collection got started with about 81 cars bought from Briggs Cunningham. Briggs was a very good friend and fellow racer with the Collier Brothers. Of the cars from Briggs [about 50 remain] plus the cars owned by the Colliers, and the many bought since the 1990's, the collection is exquisite at 110 strong.



Some of the cars have been restored, some left unrestored, and quite surprisingly some are over restored. Such was one 356 Porsche that is being taken back to bare metal and redone, and is being done in-house.

No cars go back to the manufacturer if restoration is needed. Some work is done in house, some in Canada, some in England, etc. It all depends on what is needed and who is best qualified to do it..

Front and center as you enter the building is a 1964



GTZ [serial #750052]. It sits next to a 1964 Abarth Simca and a 1964 904 Carrera GTS. All 3 cars sit on a raised platform, all are red, all 3 were raced. What a way to start looking at a car collection!!

Working our way around the floor, we looked at a 1912 T15 Alfonso XIII Hispano Suizo [which was a barn find], a 1912 Mercer 35C, a 1914 50HP Simplex that belonged to Collier's grandfather, a 1920 Cunningham, a 1923 Mercedes Targa Floria, a 1927 transaxle Lancia, and a 1929 Sunbeam 3liter twin cam. Around another corner were the jewel shown in the old brochure [p.9] and another famous diamond.



The first car set by itself was an absolutely drop dead gorgeous 1938 8C2900B [Serial #412036] that was painted the beautiful gray that showcases the car in its best light. The car was restored in Vancouver. The motor is not the original but is correct for the car in all detail.

Nearby was the gem shown on the lead page, a



1934 8C2300 Corto [serial # 231241]. Ferocious on the race track but tame on the streets, this car will do 0-60 in less than 10 seconds. Both 8C's were so pleasurable to look at and I wanted to drive both of them. Please?!?!?!?

We then moved on to the unique group of the rare

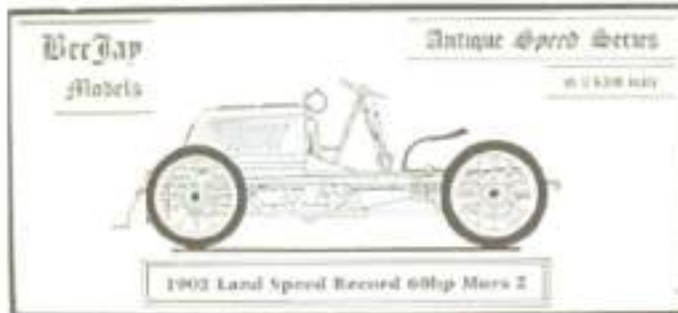


Cunningham's, all of them built and raced by Briggs Cunningham. These formed the base of Collier's original collection.

Next to them was a beautiful 1958 Giulietta Sprint Veloce that was restored in house. Very nicely done.



With respect to unique, up on the third floor was a car I never heard of. A 1902 MORS type Z. It had a



9236 C.C. [573 C.I.] motor that produced 60 HP at 1400 rpm. Next to it was a 1908 MORS GP car with a 12.5 liter [775 C.I.] motor producing 100 BHP.

We also looked a 1930 type 35B/T Bugatti - another field find - that was not running, yet. The Collier



process for determining restoration, partial or full, make new parts or not, is an amazing decision that affects the validity of the car. No decision is taken lightly which makes the Collier collection even more amazing.

The oldest car in the collection was a 1892 Panhard & Levasser M2F Wagonette.



Some of the cars are described in the old brochure shown on page ten. Below are the cars that belonged to Hollywood's Cooper and Gable,



We saw many cars that raced at Indy, LeMans, Sebring, and other tracks and courses around the world. Quite impressive. Some of the cars in the collection are shown on the next page.

The new FIAT Cinquecento was in the parking lot!

