



June 2014

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Editorial Comments: This month's newsletter begins with the BAT (Bring a Trailer) Facebook cover photo. Alfa owners should instantly recognize the car inside the trailer as well as the feeling of both watching them unload your new Alfa from the truck for the first time, or saying good bye to it for the last time. More photos of Alfas in their trailers to follow also!



Alfa Romeo Selection of the

Month for June 2014.

Car Name: 1974 GTV



Recent Events:

After taking his brand new Alfa Romeo TZ3 (Number 9 of 9) to the Amelia Island Concourse year before last, Ruggero Santilli was planning on taking it to Sarasota to the car show there earlier this year and considered taking it to other events such as the Festival of Speed. However the TZ3 is so low it would not fit on most commercially available trailers (with the exception of the more expensive Professional Car haulers) preventing him from showing his beautiful car. To rectify this problem Ruggero had a custom designed trailer made especially for his special vehicle. This should mean the attendees at the next Hilton Head show will now be able to view this rare and lovely car.

Ruggero: When a new pope is elected at the Vatican they say in Latin "**Habemus Papa**" Carla and I say that finally "**Habemus Trailer**" (see the picture) since it was quite a struggle to have it built for the very special dimensions needed to load the TZ3.



More Recent Events:

This is our very own John Rady sitting in this new Alfa 4C up close and personal. Although he was not able to drive it, he indicates there should be one at the National Convention in Detroit next month.



The Alfa 4C Interior



Sunset Fiat of Sarasota, which has been selling almost 30 Cinquecentos a month, has been chosen to be one of the 86 Fiat dealers to sell the Alfa Romeo 4C when it arrives stateside. According to their Fiat salesman, Tony, who drives a fully restored 1986 Quadrifoglio spider, "We expect to get seven of the 500 imported 4Cs. When the first one arrives in August we will invite everyone on our list of fourteen prospective buyers to come and test drive the car and decide if they still want one." FAC member, Harmon Heed put his name on the list three years ago and is #10.

More Recent Events:

Now that summer is officially here in Florida, many of our members are headed north for cooler weather including our President Delmas Greene and his wife Polly. The Greene's have a farm in Boone, North Carolina that could not be more different than sunny Florida this time of year. If this gives you visions of Delmas driving a tractor and wearing overalls while carrying a pitch fork, you are only partly right as there is always an Alfa around even at the farm as this story by Harmon Heed explains. Harmon and the Picot's met up at Delmas' Farm retreat recently for some cooler weather and a taste of country life.

Carolina Road Trip

In late May, early June, I took a short, road trip up to the Florida Alfa Club's president and perpetual treasurer/secretary Delmas & Polly Greene's farm in Boone, NC before it got too hot and humid to travel down here in Sarasota, FL.

On the way up I stopped to visit mitzpak in Atlanta then followed a scenic route through the Carolinas that Delmas gave me. There's no ugly driving in the Smokey's or Appalachians but Delmas' recommended route was extraordinarily spectacular. There are no billboards beside the South Carolina highways. Instead, the arboreal mélange of evergreens and deciduous, soft wood and hardwood, broad leaved and needled trees grow right up to the guard rails. I drove along the Saluda River and got rained on. In North Carolina I rode the Blue Ridge of the Eastern Continental Divide through the Pisgah National Forest. And got rained on along the Linville River by the falls.

There are some things that are bountiful up there. First "villes". I went through or by Townville, Greenville, Simpsonville, Reidville, Dacusville, Tigerville, Gowensville, Hendersonville, Ashville, Stockville and Linville and that was just on the way up. Second, apples and peaches which are pronounced by the mountain folk as "aipples and paiches". Third, churches of all denominations, especially Baptist. Fourth, in North Carolina, rocks. All kind of rocks. If you visit Delmas & Polly be sure to have room in your trunk to bring home some decorative rocks; it's a requirement when leaving "the farm." And remember, gas is \$.15 cheaper per gallon in SC than it is in NC or Georgia.

The house and barn were built in 1922 and the house was moved, "plank by plank" to its present location in 1929. The Greene's have done a lot of work fixing them, the old garage and "tater cellar" up and building a new garage/workshop/loft in which he keeps two of his Alfas, 1969 1750 round tail and 1972 Montreal. Delmas had just purchased a new tractor to replace the one his Pa used when he was growing up there. Would you believe it isn't an Alfa tractor? But it is red and John Deere's are green and Caterpillars are yellow. If you want to take a peek at the place go to Google map and put in 2368 Big Hill Rd., Boone, NC 28607.

My visit was doubly enhanced by John & Cheryl Picot being there, too. (John recently sold his 1973 Montreal.) Delmas & Polly gave us the grand tour of the whole area and one evening we dined "family style" at the historic Daniel Boone Inn which was originally the area's hospital. It's a fixed menu/price there: a table of bowl after bowl of "Southahn" fried chicken and steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, cut beans, corn, stewed apples, biscuits, with & without ham, jelly and if a bowl gets emptied they put out a full one. Then there's a choice of three decadent desserts; John chose all three and got all of them!

Next morning John helped Delmas pick out three golden rocks for me and toted them up to the house on the tractor sledge. John and Cheryl picked out their own rocks from the stream. WARNING: they stunk like dead fish by the time they got them home. Sorry but we got to gabbing so much that I didn't take many people pictures.

My next stop was Chapin, SC, 20 miles northwest of the state capital of Columbia, to see an old Army buddy who recently retired to there from the other SC, Southern California. On the way down I got rained on again along the Saluda River that fills large Lake Murray adjacent to Chapin. Maybe I didn't salute that river properly. Then down to Savannah to see Joost Gomples, one of the patriarchs of the Florida Alfa Club. Unfortunately I didn't get to see his award winning 1954 1900. But I did get to share dinner with some of his family and the next day he gave me a personal tour of the picturesque city. We even got in a "little" track time on the old, abandoned Henderson Island Race Track right across the Savannah River from the historic wharf.

On the final stretch back down to Sarasota I stopped by "Black Bart" and Jane Bartell's place in East Palatka (which is right across the St Johns River from West Palatka) and bought a 101 split case Series 2 transmission for Abby. The one Franco rebuilt and put in last year has never worked well and still leaks. Bart still has a complete 750 normale engine on a stand he'd like to sell. I don't think he wants to part with the almost (for four years) totally restored red Giulietta spider or pristine Dino 246. But he can still find hard to find badges and emblems for Italian marques.

So now, after 1,600 miles, I'm home. My wife Jo has decided where to put the blond rocks amidst the landscaping I did. And soon, when the rainy season gets here, Abby will go into the shop for tranny rebuild and replacement and some cosmetic work to repair a little damage done on dirt roads in Missouri and the Sierra Nevada's last year. How do you say, "This is not a Jeep" in Italian?

The Greene's Farm and Tractor



The "Tater" Bin in Cooler times



Delmas with his 1969 Red Duetto spider



The 1750 Engine in the ultra-clean Duetto



Coming Events:



Florida Alfa Club Members and Friends:

Just a quick reminder about our business meeting this Thursday, June 12th. It will be held at Jason's Deli on US 19 and Enterprise Road. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, but many members come early (6:00-6:30) to enjoy dinner and conversation before the meeting gets underway. Hope to see you there!

Our June event is with the MG Car Club this Saturday, June 14th. It will begin with a tour of the newly renovated Capital Theater in downtown Clearwater (400 Cleveland Street) at 10:30 AM, followed by lunch at O'Keefe's Restaurant. Please call Frank Mann (727-461-6630) or e-mail him (fmann1@tampabay.rr.com) asap to make reservations. Attached is a flyer with details and a number to call for reservations with the MG Car Club contact. You may call that number for reservations, but please also contact Frank so that he knows who from our club will be attending.

Calendar of Up Coming Events:

June Events

Club Business Mtg. on June 12

Tour of Capital Theater, June 14 – Contact Dennis Magee

DuPont Cars and Coffee on June 21, 7-9 AM

July Events:

No Club Meeting this month

Suncoast Porsche Cars & Coffee – Sarasota – July 5th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on July 19th, 7-9 AM

August Events:

No Club Meeting this month

Suncoast Porsche Cars & Coffee – Sarasota – August 2nd

DuPont Cars and Coffee on August 16th, 7-9 AM

September Events:

Suncoast Porsche Cars & Coffee – Sarasota – September 6th

Club Business Mtg. on September 11th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on September 20th, 7-9 AM

Sarasota Automotive Car Museum - Pending

October Events:

Suncoast Porsche Cars & Coffee – Sarasota – October 4th

Club Business Mtg. on October 9th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on October 18th, 7-9 AM

Ft DeSoto Car Show & Picnic – Date Pending

November Events:

Suncoast Porsche Cars & Coffee – Sarasota – November 1st

Club Business Mtg. on November 13th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on November 15th, 7-9 AM

VIVA Alfa Car Show (Celebration) – Still Pending

December Events:

No Club Meeting this month

FAC Holiday Dinner Party at Alfano's on December 6th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on December 20th, 7-9 AM

Cars for Sale:

Delson Correa – 1986 Spider for sale. Phone Number: 727-422-8769 No Photo available

Note from the Editor: This is an area of the newsletter we would like to expand to include detailed vehicle descriptions and High Quality photos of member's cars for sale within our region or beyond. From time to time we will also include Alfas for sale that were spotted that we feel would be of interest to our members either to purchase or simply comment on. Coming soon will also be a Focus area dedicated to our Members personal cars either fully restored or till in restoration. Send us your photos.

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area:

Recently I received a call and email advising me that an Alfa/Maserati technician had recently moved from up north down to Florida and would like to introduce himself to our members and offer his services. Right now he does not yet have a shop set up but is willing to come to you. Here are some details and contact information if you would like to discuss using his services.

Gabriella wrote:

I want to offer my fiancée's services as an Alfa Romeo Technician. He has been working with Italian cars all his life, and now he wants to "fly solo", so here I am helping him reach out to potential clients. I would like to know if you can help me spread the word, and to give him the opportunity to start his path.

We just moved from NY so he is looking to establish his own place, but for now he is independent. He worked for Alfa Romeo and Fiat many years in Argentina and worked for Ferrari Maserati for over 7 years. His name is Dany Pereyra and his cell phone number is 965-614-5809.

This month's Shop Focus: Tom Argue Designs

This month Tom Argue Designs moved into their much larger facilities with brand new state of the art water based paint booth, full service metal fabrication capability, and custom design for vintage cars. They had an open house this past month and invited all of their past customers to view the new facilities and eat freshly made pizza and talk to other customers. The new facilities are at 5020 110th Ave. just east of Hwy 19 (the first exit south of Bruce B Downs a block east under the bridge off of Hwy 19).

While Tom's place specializes in American Muscle cars, his facility has state of the art capabilities for other car brands as well such as a 1959 Mercedes 190 ground up restoration, 356 Porsches, and vintage Alfas and BMWs as well including my blue 3.0CS.

Many of Tom's cars grace the cover of various car magazines or end up as featured cars at the SEMA show. A desperate "Eleanor" Mustang fastback owner recently sent his car all the way from Hong Kong for Tom to restore. If you need custom fabrication or rust repair and new paint without the hassles we have all experienced getting paint and rust repair done, I recommend checking Tom Argue Designs out.





Frank Mann

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