

November 2014 Volume 1 Issue 11

Editorial Comments: This month we have details of the Celebration Event, Chronicles of a World Traveler and many other things. This month the 4C arrives at Dealers all over the country so to celebrate that event we left last month's photo of the car here once again front and center. Just Beautiful!



Alfa Romeo Selection of the

Month for November 2014.

Car Name:



Recent Events:

2014 Celebration – Car Show Event – Held Once Again at Disney this year.

This year's Celebration Car Show was once again held at Disney although the return to Disney was uncertain for most of the year, but our friends in the Orlando Chapter worked their magic and found a way to make it happen there again this year.

Here are some of the scenes at Celebration pictured below. You will see some familiar faces as well as cars we all know including the trophy shot of Delmas Green receiving his award.

Here is Delmas Greene Receiving his award for Best Pre - 1980 Open Class.



Here are a couple of shots of Delmas Greene's winning car.



More photos of an array of cars of ever type and color down both sides of the street.



An Impressive view from each side of the street filled with interesting cars.



Here is John Picot's Plum colored GTV

Here is a white Duetto Spider



More Recent Events:

Classic 24 Hours Race at Daytona 2014

This year's Classic 24 Hour Race Event at Daytona was a big success hosting several vintage race cars. Here is a brief write up from Norm Sippel on the event.

"Just back from "Classic 24 Hour" at Daytona. Incredible Porsches in attendance racing. Group C with the 962's had a lot of attrition. The Leyton House 962 won with a substantial lead. Image attached below."

Here is a photo of the winning car, the Leyton House 962 Porsche.



Up Coming Events:

The Festival of Speed - Orlando



9TH ANNUAL FESTIVALS OF SPEED ORLANDO LUXURY LIFESTYLE JET PORT RECEPTION: \$100.00 PP

Luxury Lifestyle Jetport Reception Includes: premium brands open bar, themed food stations, live band, gift bag, event poster.

Luxury Lifestyle Jetport Reception

Orlando International Airport \$100.00 Friday December 5th 2014 8-11pm Includes premium brands open bar, themed food stations, live band, gift bag, event poster.

Wine Connoisseurs Dinner

NORMANS Restaurant, Ritz-Carlton Orlando \$175.00 Saturday, December 6th 2014 7:00-10:00 pm

Festivals of Speed display of exotics

Ritz-Carlton Orlando

Sunday, December 7th 2014 10:00am-4:00pm

General Admission: \$20.00

VIP: \$125.00

Includes: VIP Patron badge, Premium brands open bar, Lunch, VIP gift bag, event poster.

Up Coming Events:

Sarasota Polo Match

Alfa Romeo

Florida Alfa Club Annual Polo Match and Tailgate Meet SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

175 exit 213 then east on University to Lorraine road.

Turn right to second gate. Follow signs.

GATES OPEN AT 11:00AM. MATCHES START AT 1:00PM. BRING YOUR LUNCH, DRINKS AND SHARED GOODIES



COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON

Email or call Bob Scott for reservations or information
(817) 313 2945 rlscott007@gmail.com

Join us for the next Sarasota Polo Match, Sunday January 25, 2015, and bring out your cars, picnic baskets, your favorite beverages and enjoy a day in the sun watching the Polo match and spending time with friends old and new.





Let's make this year's Polo Match a success and sign up today. Contact Bob Scott today! Rscott1697@aol.com PH: 817-313-2945





Why is he so excited? Maybe because won the match or maybe he just saw all the rare and interesting Alfa Romeos on parade at half time! Come see for yourself.





Up Coming Event: Sarasota Exotic Car Fest



This show has always been a success for the FAC. Please join us and register your car for a fun day with hundreds of exotic and vintage sports cars. For more details and registration use the provided link here.

Our club coordinator for this event: Bob Parncevic

http://www.sarasotaexoticcarfest.com/



Saturday, February 21, 2015 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Ferraris, Rolls-Royces, Lamborghinis, Bentleys, Alfa Romeos and other Exotics on display. Open to the public. Registration required to display a car. This unique display of exotic automobiles comes to Sarasota for one day only. Call 941-348-9039 to register a car.



NEW Update: Details of the Alfa 4C's Arrival

There was an Alfa 4C review recently broadcast on Motor Week that was fairly positive on the cars performance. They highlighted just how hard it was to enter the car if you were much over six foot tall or over 50 years of age, but raved about the cars handling and most other aspects of the car.

Other club members have commented that there are other reviews of the Alfa 4C that are both more in-depth and detailed. Here is a link to one of those review for our members.

Video: Driven | 2015 Alfa Romeo 4C

Sorry but I cannot get enough of this photo, ha!



Alfa Romeo 4c Launch-Reception in Winter Haven



The Winter Haven Alfa Romeo Dealership has invited the Florida Alfa Club members to their official "kick Off" reception for the new Alfa Romeo 4c on Thursday evening, January 22, 2015, from 4:30-6:30 PM. They would like as many Club members and their "Vintage" Alfas as possible to show up for the celebration. Winter Haven is approximately 1½ hour drive from Clearwater and we need to be at the dealership no later than 4:30PM. The address is:

Winter Haven Alfa Romeo/Fiat

190 Ave. K, South West

Winter Haven, FL 33880

Phone: 863-595-3135

Hope you can participate! We would like to show them how great our Club support can be. Please let me know by January 8, 2015, if you can join us.

Delmas and Polly Greene Frank Mann

alfagreene@yahoo.com fmann1@tampabay.rr.com

727-799-1486 727-254-9723

More Reviews on the Alfa Romeo 4C:

Other sources have given reviews of the car with a little less enthusiasm, but generally in conclusion they admit that even though the car may not be for everyone, it is still an exciting car to drive. In an attempt to be fair and show all sides of the media's opinions on the car here is another view point reprinted below. Our advice is to drive the car yourself now that the first ones are showing up at our local dealers and make your own judgment.

Leading the Chant

Every year since then, I have led the assembled crowd of true believers at Concorso Italiano in the chant, "Alfa Come Back!"

But at the same time that I anticipated an official Alfa presence in the U.S., I was cognizant that the automotive world has become an extremely competitive place, especially in the \$60,000-and-above segment that Alfa was projected to enter.

After much hemming and hawing, the Alfa 4C is now officially being imported into the U.S. Before ever having driven one, I found the car visually quite exciting. The mechanical specs were intriguing as well, with a 6-speed paddle-shifted transmission and a turbo-charged, midmounted 4-cylinder engine.

So it was with excitement as well as some trepidation that I approached the white test car that was delivered to our offices. I don't claim to be fluent in modern day Alfas, so I can't evaluate the 4C as it relates to the late-model Alfas that have preceded it. But I can evaluate it as an entrant in the above-\$60k sports car market.

The 4C carries many burdens: it has to satisfy the old-line Alfisti as being a "pure Alfa," it has to be a good introduction to those unfamiliar to the marque, and it has to be a competitive player in its market segment. The MSRP is \$62,195.

Challenged

This is not meant to be a technical analysis or a road test. There have been plenty of those written. Rather, it is a reaction to this car as one of many choices available in this price range.

I found the 4C to be lacking in many ways. Yes, it's a real sports car. It has blistering performance. It makes the right sounds. If you really hammer the car, you can have the ride of a lifetime.

But there are many details on the 4C that simply aren't well thought out. They may each seem small, but together they give the feel of a car that was cobbled together for the U.S. market with no concern about the overall experience.

The Hateful Buzzer

Let's quickly run down the list. There is keyless entry, but the key itself is a throwback to the 1990s. The long metal key pops out of the fob, and you then put that into the slot in the dashboard. No keyless ignition, and no pushbutton start. All of these "user-friendly" attributes are nearly the norm in a \$60k+ car today.

The 4C is very difficult to get in and out of, which has not been true of any Alfa I have driven in the past. If you are young and limber, this car will be fine. Otherwise, it is a struggle, similar to a Lotus Evora. This isn't exactly what you are looking for in a car designed to attract newcomers to the marque.

Once inside, the "put your seatbelt on" buzzer is perhaps the loudest and most obnoxious I have ever encountered. Everyone who rode with me immediately commented on it. Wouldn't you think the engineers at Alfa would care enough about first impressions that they would install a more mellifluous warning system? If I owned a 4C, the first thing I would do is clip the wires to the buzzer – although with the interconnected electronic systems of today's car, that would probably simultaneously disable the windshield wipers and the anti-lock brakes.

The driver's seat has no height adjustment, which meant that my daughter Alex, at 5-foot-2, could not find a way to comfortably see out of the car. By contrast, she *could* find a way to see out of our Viper, as well as the Lotus Elise we once owned. At \$63k, not having a height adjustment represents ergonomic thoughtlessness.

The vision out of the rear is poor, but I can live with that. However, when \$25,000 Hyundais have backup cameras and touch-screen nav systems, along with temperature-regulated heat and a/c systems, the center stack in the 4C is sorely lacking. There is no backup camera and no navigation, and the cockpit temperature does not have an automatically-controlled system.

The clock/radio display is in an over-sized, ponderous font, and the device is not particularly user-friendly.

The road noise in this car is the loudest I have ever experienced. Not the exhaust noise, but the actual rumble from the pavement. The Elise was much quieter. When driving on the freeway, conversation in the cockpit is nearly impossible due to this intrusive rumbling.

The rear hatch lid is very heavy and has to be propped up with a support rod, as there are no pressurized struts to hold it open. This means that just lifting the lid to get something out of the tiny trunk is a two-handed operation: one to lift and support the lid and another to locate the metal rod and put it into place.

I was surprised at the number of times I had something in one hand and went to pop the trunk open to fetch an article from the trunk – and had to balance the hatch lid on my head rather than go to the trouble of locating the support rod.

It's just not what you expect from a car in this price range.

None of the above things make the 4C a bad car. It squirts when you press the throttle, the automatic makes reasonably good shifting decisions, and the brakes and handling are excellent.

Sexy But Hard to Love

For die-hard Alfa enthusiasts, this car will be a dream come true. It has striking looks and makes the right sounds.

But that's not the market that Alfa needs to attract if it is going to have reasonable market penetration in the U.S.

Between the difficult entrance and egress, the user-cruel ergonomics and the overwhelming road noise, this Alfa will appeal primarily to hard-core sports car purists, and that market segment is not a large one. Certainly not large enough to support a full-scale re-entry into the U.S. market.

While I am thrilled to have this sexy Alfa Romeo being officially sold in our country, I don't think it will be an easy sell. And I don't think it will be an effective agent to introduce non-Alfisti to the brand.

I hope the next car Alfa brings in will be equally quirkily, but at the same time more user-friendly and contemporary in its presentation

Once again sorry. I am taking mine straight to the paint shop and telling them – make mine like this one!



More News on the Arrival of the Alfa 4C:

There are several reports of the Alfa 4C arriving in the US now. We were advised they scheduled their trucks to arrive at each dealer all at the same time. The Alfa/Fiat Dealer in Winter Haven Florida reports he received his first car Wednesday Nov. 19th. Here also is a reprint of an article on the return of Alfa Romeo to the US from the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Alfa Romeo returning to Sarasota after nearly 20 years

By <u>Justine Griffin</u>, Herald-Tribune / Tuesday, November 18, 2014



Sunset Fiat is now Sunset Alfa Romeo Fiat, and is among less than 100 dealers in the United States to offer Italian Alfa Romero sports cars for sale.

The Italian brand is known for its racing heritage. Most remember the Alfa Romeo Duetto Spider Dustin Hoffman drove in "*The Graduate*." The brand is now a subsidiary of Fiat Group Automobiles and is making a comeback in the U.S. The brand left Southwest Florida in 1995. The first Alfa Romeo to hit Southwest Florida will be the <u>4c</u> – a luxury high performance sports car, which starts at \$68,400.

Some Southwest Florida residents have been waiting to get their hands on the sports car for more than three years, said Tim Reeher, sales manager at Sunset Alfa Romeo Fiat. "There's a huge pent up demand for this brand," Reeher said. "There's no other Italian sports car out there that you can buy for under \$100,000." The first car will arrive next week, but more are coming.

"We hope the 4c, which is the halo car for the brand will garner interest," Reeher said. "The plan is to then introduce several more affordable models, something more comparable to a BMW 3-series or a small high end SUV next." Sunset Alfa Romeo Fiat, located at 7641 South Tamiami Trail, is among nine other Fiat dealerships in Florida that will sell the Alfa Romeo cars

Note: Sunset Alfa in Sarasota just received its first 4C and invites everyone to come see the car Saturday morning Nov. 22^{nd} from 10-12 AM and bring your vintage cars in a show of support!

Upcoming Events:

We have two upcoming car show events in Naples soon. Details of the events and how to sign up are provided here by Bob Lombardo from the SW Florida Chapter.



Gentlemen,

There are two car shows in Naples coming up shortly and I thought you may be interested in having members or your clubs participate. Space is very limited so please let me know as soon as possible if you want to participate. We have been allotted 8 spaces for Cars on 5th and we have 5 already taken. I think the Mercato show will be first come first served. Mercato Car Show, December 13th at the Mercato Center

Mercato cars (December 13th) can be registered at: http://www.naplesferrariclub.com/event-registration

The event password is: *NFC2015#

Cars on 5th February 14th on 5th Avenue, downtown Naples.

http://www.carsonfifth.com/carsonfifthregistration/

The password for the Alfa Club is: !cofalfas2015#

Chronicles of a World Traveler or The World Down Under by Harmon & Jo Heed:

While most club members occasionally still take vacations that require they leave behind their beloved Alfa Romeo's, unlike Delmas and Polly Green who just keep several additional cars at their Vacation Home in the North Carolina mountains so they never go into withdrawals, some of us have to leave them behind when traveling abroad for that long awaited vacation. Not so Florida Alfa Club members Harmon and Jo Heed! They have creatively found a way to stay involved with the Alfa Romeo Club and even drive several new car models while on an extended vacation down under.

When they first arrived in Australia, here is what I suggested to him: Enjoy your trip and keep sending photos. Break out one of your Florida/Cairns shirts, find a local Bar/Barbie, hoist a few Fosters and go native for a while! In typical Harmon fashion here is his response: When I was racing in San Francisco Bay and the Aussies were dominating racing almost everywhere else we would drink Fosters. Down here I couldn't get one in Sydney, Darwin or Cairns. "Why not?" I asked. "Because we never drank the "bloomin stuff" and you can't get a bloody can of it here. Why in the hell did you Yanks drink it?"

"Uh, because it came in bigger cans," I replied

"Am in from the outback and "tomorrah" head out to the Great Barrier Reef. Today we're in Cairns and took a short test drive in a Giulietta with 1750 engine; I wasn't impressed. The sales lady wasn't impressed with my driving on the right/wrong side of the road. Looked at the Mito, too".



Here is the Engine and Interior of the Giulietta.



Here is Harmon and Jo Heed with the Alfa Mito



Here are shots of the Mito's engine and interior



After visiting Australia for a while they moved on to New Zealand which is just a hop skip and a jump over the Coral Sea – Oh these world travelers!

"Three days in Auckland where 1/3 of the 4, 000, 000 Kiwis live. Went sailing in the Huaraki Gulf yesterday and last night attended Auckland chapter AROC meeting. Three members there were under 30 and three over 60. They were very surprised we haven't had an Alfa imported into the States for 20 years. NZ has one 4C and it was privately imported from Britain.

Deon drove us back to our hotel in his 2001 156 stick shift wagon. We went over the hilly city streets like Steve McQueen did in Bullitt!

Today we're flying down to South Island to hop in the Brera spider and drive Lord of the Rings land. Pray we don't meet Saruman or even Gollum".



Although Harmon and Jo missed a couple of our local Florida Alfa Club meetings in order to go on this whirl wind vacation trip, they did manage to make up for it by locating a local Alfa Club Chapter in Auckland as pictured here. It looks like they made themselves right at home. This is a great idea for any other Club member to first look up any Alfa Club organization in the country or countries you plan to visit and join them for their event as part of your vacation plans. It is a great way to stay involved as well as meet some nice people where ever you are since you have a common interest in Alfa Romeo's.

I do not think they are drinking Fosters, maybe just root beer, naaahhh I do not think so.



Stay Tuned for the next installment!

Up Coming Events

November Events

Sarasota Cars and Coffee on Nov. 3rd – 8-10 AM Sarasota Porsche on the Trail

Club Business Mtg. on Nov. 13, at the Yard of Ale

VIVA Alfa Car Show (Celebration) Friday & Saturday Nov. 14-15th - Delmas

DuPont Cars and Coffee on Nov. 15, 7-9 AM

December Events

No Club Business Meeting this month

Sarasota Cars & Coffee - Dec. 6th 8-10AM – Sarasota Porsche on the Trail

FAC Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, Dec. 6th – 12 Noon – 3PM - Polly

Festival of Speed (Orlando), Sunday, Dec. 7th - Contact Frank

DuPont Cars and Coffee on Dec. 20thth, 7-9 AM

January 2015 Events

Sarasota Cars & Coffee – Jan. 3rd, 8-10 AM – Sarasota Porsche on the Trail

Club Business Mtg. on January 9th, 2015 at the Yard of Ale

DuPont Cars and Coffee on January 17th, 7-9 AM

Sarasota Polo Match Sunday Jan. 25th, 2015

February 2015 Events

Sarasota Cars & Coffee – Feb 7th, 8-10 AM – Sarasota Porsche on the Trail

Club Business Mtg. on February 12th, 2015 at Yard of Ale

Sarasota Exotic Car Fest on February 20-22 Contact: Bob Parncevic

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

March 2015 Events

Sarasota Cars & Coffee – March 9th, 8-10 AM – Sarasota Porsche on the Trail

Club Business Mtg. on March 12th, 2015 at Yard of Ale

Amelia Island Concourse de Elegance March 13th – 15th 2015

DuPont Cars & Coffee on March 21st, 7-9 AM

Cars For Sale: A 1967 Duetto Spider for sale on eBay now in pale yellow.

More details: http://www.ebay.com/itm/Alfa-Romeo-Spider-Duetto-1967-alfa-romeo-duetto-

/151476779272?forcerrptr=true&hash=item2344b83908&item=151476779272& pt=US Cars Trucks



Car for Sale: A 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV – 2000 in Red

More Details: http://www.ebay.com/itm/Alfa-Romeo-GTV-base-1974-alfa-romeo-gtv-2000-/321585944462?forcerrptr=true&hash=item4ae004178e&item=321585944462&pt=US Cars Trucks

Nice pics and great back ground scenery for what looks like a decent car.



Car for Sale: 1966 Alfa Romeo GTV Race/Track Car

More Details: <a href="http://www.ebay.com/itm/Alfa-Romeo-Other-GT-Giulia-Sprint-1966-alfa-romeo-gt-giulia-sprint-race-car-not-street-legal-/221605910911?forcerrptr=true&hash=item3398bdd97f&item=221605910911&pt=US_Cars_Trucks

The starting bid for this bad boy is \$23,000.00 but from the looks of the photos this is a serious car and will easily sell for much more. It has a track record as a race car appears to be the real deal. We like this a lot.





Car for Sale: 1972 Alfa Romeo GT Junior in Mint Condition

More Details: Cars_Trucks



New Car for Sale: 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV Euro Spec Car with Webers

More Details: <a href="http://www.ebay.com/itm/Alfa-Romeo-GTV-GTV-2000-EURO-SPEC-74-alfa-gtv-2000-euro-twin-webers-lsd-all-rebuilt-orig-nevada-car-/261659245643?forcerrptr=true&hash=item3cec1b3c4b&item=261659245643&pt=US_Cars_Trucks

This is a really clean car with what looks like a very professional paint job, and just look at the photos from underneath the car. They are a clean as the top. This is a car well worth looking closely at.



More Business: Advertisers & Recommended Shops

If you know of a body or paint shop, dealer or service provider that you would recommend and would like to share with the rest of the Alfa Romeo World, this space is available for them to advertise at very reasonable rates. As owners of vintage Alfa Romeos we all have stories of the car that went in for a paint job only to be left sitting endlessly and eventually held for hostage, or the mechanical shop that caused more oil leaks than the car came in with. Send us your list of shops that you are proud to recommend to other Alfa owners and help us spread the word.

With the upcoming introduction of the new Alfa 4C and the fleet of Alfas to follow it, many of our local Fiat-Alfa Dealers are gearing up for the new 4C's introduction. The Florida Alfa Club has offered to help promote these 4C introduction events by bringing several of our Vintage Alfa for display during the dealer's events. If you have an Alfa-Fiat dealer near you that would like us to participate as well by bringing our cars to their kickoff events, please ask them to contact us here for scheduling. Also mention to the dealer in your area that advertising here reaches a targeted market of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts already sold on the brand and a valuable source for potential future Alfa customers.

If you are organizing a car show or an event and you would like the Florida Alfa Club to participate in your event by either bringing out several unique and pristine vintage Alfa Romeo's for display at the car show, or our membership to participate in a charity drive and/or similar event, feel free to contact us here. You can also advertise your event here as well. Contact us directly on how to do that and for a list of reasonable rates.

More Business: Advertisers:



Contact the FAC for Dealer Recommendations and Club Membership: www.floridaalfaclub.org



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 member's personal cars either fully restored or till in restoration. Send us your photos.

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area

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February Events

DuPont Cars and Coffee on Feb. 15^{th} , 7-9 AM

Sarasota Exotic Car Fest on Saturday, Feb. 22 – Contact Gary Jones

March Events

Suncoast Porsche Cars and Coffee on March 1 – Contact Harmon Heed

Amelia Island on March 6-9 – Contact Polly Greene

Club Business Mtg. on March 13th

DuPont Cars and Coffee on March 15, 7-9 AM

April Events

Festival of Speed (St Petersburg), Sunday, April 6 - Contact Barry Andress

Club Business Mtg. on April 10th

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

Pizza and Simulator Car Racing Event at the Santillis, Saturday, April 19, 11:00 – 2:00 – Ruggero

May Events

Parts Swap, Saturday, May 3, at the ARI headquarters in Orlando – Contact Delmas Greene

Club Business Mtg. on May 8

DuPont Cars and Coffee on May 17, 7-9 AM

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

September through December Events

Museum of Flight September 13, Cost \$21.95 per person

Cars for Sale:

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

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