

The logo for the Alfa Romeo Florida Alfa Club. It features a red circular emblem on the left containing a white cross and a green serpent. To the right, the words "Alfa Romeo" are written in a red, stylized script font. Below this, the words "FLORIDA ALFA CLUB" are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with "FLORIDA" on the top line and "ALFA CLUB" on the bottom line. A red swoosh underline is positioned between the script and the sans-serif text.

Alfa Romeo
FLORIDA
ALFA CLUB

October 2015

Volume 2 Issue 10

Editorial Comments: This time of year is filled with events for our members – see the details inside!



Alfa Romeo Selection of the

Month for October 2015.

Car Name: Alfa Romeo Tipo 33 Stradale Concept



Recent Events

Viva Alfa Romeo – Celebration October 2nd-3rd

By: Harmon Heed



It was indeed a celebration at the 12th Annual **Viva Alfa Romeo** at quaint Celebration, FL on 3 October, hosted by the Mid-Florida AROC.

Celebration is a picturesque town bordering Disney World, so picture perfect that you feel like you're inside the park: columned, Georgian mansions, Savannah style row houses, mid-western homes with vast porches and all so perfectly manicured. Mickey & Minnie, Donald & Daisy or a princess could live next door to you and Pluto could be playing in your yard. Market Street is boutiques and bistros for two blocks from the city square to the lake. And it's on that brick lined street that the Alfas park.

The street is blocked off to vehicular traffic. Both sides are lined with Alfas and Fiats diagonally parked, pointing to the entrance at the square. Behind the cars the owners set their foldable chairs on the sidewalks and renew old friendships. In the middle of the street they mingle with the many Disney tourists and view their fellow Alfisti's cars.

The car count this year was a bit low at 50 but the rarities were numerous. An overall count of cars on the brick lined street were: contemporary spiders, 21; 750/101 spiders, 6; Fiat 124 spiders, 5; GTVs, 4; Milanos, 2; 164s, 2; 4Cs, 2; Fiat Cinquecento's, 2; Alfa 155, 1; GTV6, 1; Montreal, 1; Giuletta berlina 1; Fiat Strada Abarth 130, 1; Fiat X-19, 1. That's a lot of different Italian cars at one place at one time !



The weekend began with a full house banquet at Café D'Antonio, by the lake, Friday evening; drinks, dinner and service were *molte bella*. A couple of the top down spiders parked outside did get *molte acqua* in a surprise thunder storm but the *après* desert at Kilwin's chocolatier made up for that. (Kilwin's is worth killing for.) Fortunately for the wet ones the Mid-Florida club had reserved reduced rates at hotel very close by.

By morning the rain was gone, for all day, and the intermittent clouds kept the crowd cool. The cars were parked in like groups as best as could be done with their varying arrivals. There were some no shows, as usual: Sue & Bob Prancevic's ravishing red 1974 spider who's SPICA spoke foully on the way up from Sarasota; another spider whose transmission seceded on its way down from South Carolina. But those missers were replaced by non-RSVP drive-ins. The Mid-Florida staff handled them all with southern hospitality.

A definite benefit of attending an event like this is speaking with owners of cars like yours and actually seeing their car. 750/101 spiders and 105 GTVs, contemporary spiders, GTV 6s, Milanos, 164s, Fiat 124s. Or rare cars like yours, Jeff Schuyler's factory burgundy and tan 1991 spider. Or very rare cars we don't often get to see like Barry Mann's 1997 155, yes, a 155; Nick Urgo's 1985 Fiat Strada Abarth 130 berlina (according to Nick, only five in the US) and his wife, Tracey's, factory copper colored 125 spider.



The rarest care was Carlo Amalfitano's 1955 Giulietta berlina (according to Carlo there are only two in the US.) It was restored molte magnifico. On the dash was a small, gold, magnet frame with two photos in it: on the left a young woman and beside it a boy. The woman was Carlo's mother and the boy was him at the age of eleven, when he drove his first car, a 1955 Giulietta berlina in Italy. He brought his first "trophy" home to his new home in Florida.

Viva Alfa Romeo is a gathering and not a concours event but of course trophies had to be handed out and FAC members gathered their share. Barry Andress' 1972 and John Picot's 73 GTVs shared honors for early, closed cars. Harmon Heed's blond 64 Giulia spider shared honors with Amalfitano's black, 1964 spider for early, open cars. John Rady's 91 and Jim Fergeson's 89 spiders were close in the running for later, open cars as was Delmas Greene's 73 Montreal in later, closed cars. Best in show went to Carlo's other, red, 1964 spider and People's Choice went his 1955 Berlina.

If you've never attended **Viva Alfa Romeo** at Celebration, put it on your calendar for next year, October or November. It is the best Alfa gathering in Florida!



More Recent Events: Mirror Lake Classic October 16th-17th

Lake Mirror Classic Auto Festival

The cars were a mélange of most every make and model from the 1920s to present. Saturday, October 17th, a classic, Florida day for 35,000 spectators and 675 classy automobiles parked around Lake Mirror and downtown Lakeland, midway between Tampa and Orlando. Lakeland has been beautifully refurbished. The spectators ranged from newly arrived, white haired snowbirds to young couples pushing baby strollers and younger teenagers, politely oohing and aahing and dreaming.



On the city streets were groupings of vintage hot rods, muscle cars, pony cars, Model A's, a block long pit of Cobras, a two block fleet of Corvettes and a large herd of Mustangs roaming everywhere. On the grass around the lake edge were the concourse cars, long hooded Packard's, Cadillacs and a DuPont from the 1930s. A group of race cars including a Porsche 917 once driven by Hurley Haywood and a 1929, open Model A with the original flat top four engine and twin Edmunds carbs that still races today. Among the European sports cars from the 1950's was a stunning, mint green, Lancia Flaminia Zagato. Many of these cars were hoping to use the event as a stepping stone to Amelia Island.

On a grass circle continuing the concourse were ten Alfa Romeos, parked in a ring, all facing center. A red 1971 GT Jr. owned by South Florida AROC member Giovanni Bilello, up from Miami; Delmas & Polly Greene's baby blue 1973 Montreal; John & Linda Rady's refurbished 1991 spider veloce that's for sale, (asking \$10k); Bob & Carol Scott's immaculate 1987 spider quadrifoglio; Barry Andress' restored, cherry red 1972 GT Veloce; Harmon Heed's blond 1964 spider abnormale; Mid Florida AROC members Peter Gagne' verde foresta 1978 spider; Barbara & Ed Joyce's red 1986 spider; and Erik & Jeanette Ekh's restored and very rare in America 2001 156 berlina. Harmon's car was awarded the Sponsor's Choice Award Ribbon. Not in his 1992 spider was Jeff Hanson who came to spectate and drop off some gifts he recently purchased in Italy.



Also parked with us was this year's Florida Alfa Club president and event chair, Frank Mann's 1973 BMW 2002 Custom. It, too, was awarded the Sponsor's Choice Award Ribbon. Frank reserved a block of rooms at the very nearby Hyatt Place and hosted a wine & cheese gathering Friday evening. He was responsible for getting the event the organizer, Ford Heacock of Heacock Classic Auto Ins. into giving us our own display area adjacent to the concourse cars. An added benefit of our location was that just down in front of the ring of Alfas was the boat dock where seven, classic, 1940s-50s vintage Chris Craft and Gar Wood runabouts were tied up for viewing. Those lovely woodies planed around Lake Mirror for half an hour, lovely to look at and listen to!



Mark the middle of October for 2016's Lake Mirror Classic. Frank is going to try to arrange our own class for judging and permission to fly Alfa Romeo flags and banners in and around the circle. Entrants don't have to be concourse, just clean and shiny. The ring can hold sixteen cars and there's room for more in the center so shine em' up for next year! Maybe we can even get a new Giulia to place in the center of our vintage Alfa's next year as well.



The Tag says it all on this beautiful Alfa 156, one of only two in the country.



Editor's Comments:

For those of you that joined us for the Wine and Cheese event at the Hyatt Hotel Friday before the show Saturday were treated to a six table long collection of six Italian Cheeses, four kinds of crackers, two loafs of bread, two types of salami, plus Prosciutto, olives, and (8) bottles of red wine.

The staff at the Hyatt were very helpful in providing what was needed to make this event a success. Several Corvette Club members (also staying at the hotel) made comments that they wanted to change clubs after viewing our spread of food and wine. Everyone had a great time and all diets were placed on hold for the evening.

Please let us know if this pre-show event was enjoyed and worth doing next year.

Up Coming Events

Annual Ft DeSoto Picnic and Car Show – Sunday Nov. 15th



Join us for the Florida Alfa Club's Annual Fort DeSoto Picnic and Car Show. This year we are extending an invitation to the SW FL. & Mid FL. Alfa Clubs as well as other select Sports Car clubs to join us. As a result we will be providing a block of rooms at a local Hotel for overnight stays Saturday night before the event, as well as organizing a dinner Saturday night for people arriving early for the picnic Sunday.

Fort DeSoto Beach and Park



The event starts at 11:00AM located at Shelter #2 - RSVP to Harmon Heed

More Upcoming Events:

Annual FAC Holiday Luncheon at Alfano's Dec. 5th at 11:00AM



Join us for our annual Holiday Luncheon at Alfano's restaurant located at:

1702 Clearwater-Largo Road

Clearwater, FL.

PH: 727-584-2125

Alfano's has great Italian, steaks and seafood with one of the area's best award winning wine list. We typically have a large private room for our party, and since we now hold it as a luncheon, there is plenty of safe and secure parking. So be sure to bring your vintage or new Alfa out, dust off your best holiday attire and come celebrate the holidays with all your friends in the Florida Alfa Club at Alfano's restaurant Saturday December 5th.

Polly usually has several giveaway bags for everyone, and this year she has been to Italy shopping so expect them to be unique and different this year. Contact Polly Greene to reserve a spot at pollygreene@yahoo.com or by phone at 727-439-2019.



More Upcoming Events: Festivals of Speed – Orlando – Sunday December 6th



LUXURY LIFESTYLE JETPORT RECEPTION

ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 2015

GOLF TOURNAMENT

BELLA COLLINA GOLF CLUB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 2015

MOTORSPORTS DISPLAY

RITZ-CARLTON ORLANDO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 2015, 10AM-4PM

WWW.FESTIVALSOFSPEED.COM | 352-385-9450

For sponsorship inquiries to the weekend's events call Joe Sabatini

Upcoming Events:

Alfa Romeo

Florida Alfa Club
Annual Polo Match and Tailgate Meet
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016

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**

Up Coming Events

October 2015 Events:

Celebration Car Show – October 2nd-3rd, Orlando

Sarasota Café Racers – Wednesdays, October 7th and 24th, 11:30AM – Harmon Heed

Tampa Bay Café Racers – October 7th, 11:30AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

Club Business Mtg. on October 8th, 6:30PM at Taziki's Café on Ulmerton

Mirror Lake Car Show on October 16th-17th, in Lakeland – Frank Mann

DuPont Cars & Coffee on October 17th, 7-9 AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers – October 21th, 11:30 AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

November 2015 Events:

Sarasota Café Racers – Wednesdays, November 4th and 18th, 11:30AM – Harmon Heed

St Petersburg Yacht Club Car Show – Sunday, November 8th

Tampa Bay Café Racers – November 11th, 11:30AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

Club Business Meeting on Nov. 12th, 6:30PM at Taziki's Café on Ulmerton

Annual Ft DeSoto Picnic and Car Show – November 15th, - Harmon Heed

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

Tampa Bay Café Racers – November 25th, 11:30 AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

December 2015 Events:

Sarasota Café Racers – Wednesdays, December 2nd and 16th, 11:30AM – Harmon Heed

Club Annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon – December 5th, 11:30AM – Alfanos – Polly Greene

Festival of Speed – Sunday December 6th – Orlando Ritz Carlton 10:00AM – 4:00PM – Joe Sabatini

Tampa Bay Café Racers – December 9th, 11:30AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

DuPont Cars & Coffee on December 19th, 7-9 AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers – December 23rd, 11:30 AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

Upcoming Events Continued:

January 2016 Event:

Sarasota Café Racers – Wednesdays, January 6th and 20th, 11:30AM – Harmon Heed

Club Business Meeting - Thursday Jan 8th – Taziki’s Café on Ulmerton – 6:30PM

Tampa Bay Café Racers – January 13th, 11:30AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton – Frank Mann

DuPont Cars & Coffee on January 16th, 7-9 AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers – January 27, 11:30 AM – Backcourt Café on Ulmerton

Polo Match & Tail Gate Event Sunday Jan. 31st – Sarasota Polo Fields – Bob Scott

Note: The Sarasota Cars & Coffee is back and larger than ever at a new location



Cars for Sale:



Please submit photos and a description of your car for sale and we will post it here for the Alfa Romeo Nation to see. Contact the editor Frank Mann at fmann1@tampabay.rr.com or directly at 727-254-9723

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:

WINTER HAVEN
190 Ave K SW • Winter Haven, FL 33880

Jon Mospaw
Sales

Direct: 863-837-3135
Phone: 863-595-2135
Fax: 863-595-2172
Jon@FIATofWinterHaven.com
FIATofWinterHaven.com
facebook.com/flatofwinterhaven

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

Join us for the Mirror Lake Classic Car show in Lakeland later this year October 16th-17th and bring out your classic Alfa to add to Winter Haven Alfa/Fiat's tent and display

Alfa Romeo 4C

We Support the Alfa Romeo Club of Florida

Fiat 500 1957 Edition

WINTER HAVEN
Behind Lowes
Located at 190 Ave. K SW
Winter Haven, FL 33880
(855) 664-2836
FIATofWinterHaven.com

Fiat 500L Trekking

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area

This month's Focus: ProFab Customs – Powder Coating Services



When I recently got my Alfa GTV back from a full bare metal restoration and paint, I realized there was a few more things that needed to be done before I could start the reassembly in earnest. Although I had ordered many new custom and racing suspension parts from Alfaholics in the UK www.alfaholics.com , many of the original suspension parts would need to be reused and they were in sad shape with 40 years-worth of grease and grim. I started degreasing them and hours of scrapping and brushing later, I said there had to be a better way, so I contact my friend Tom Argue of Tom Argue designs www.tomarguedesigns.com and asked him to recommend a local shop for Powder Coating services.

This is how I was introduced to ProFab guys Joe McDede and Gerry Miller - www.profabcustoms.com . They took my dirty grimy suspension parts and degreased them, baked them, primed and powder coated them to perfection all at a very reasonable price. They are highly recommended.

More Recommended Shops:

Gearworks
1410 N. Hercules Ave.
Clearwater, FL. 33765
PH: 727-784-0452
www.agearworks.com

I had already rebuilt the engine and transmission on my GTV when the body finally got back from paint when I realized the rear end would also need rebuilding. This is when I was recommended to Andy at Gear Works by fellow Alfa guy Mark Dubovic. They specialize in rebuilding and servicing rear ends and differentials. They were friendly and knowledgeable. As it turned out my Alfa GTV rear end only needed a good cleaning and new seals. They are highly recommended.

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.

Frank Mann

President Florida Alfa Club

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