



March 2019

Volume 6 Issue 3

Editorial Comments: The Winter/Spring season is here with lots of events to attend – sign up today.



Alfa Romeo Selection of the

Month: March 2019.

Car Name: Alfa Romeo's new 600 Plus HP GTV Coupe – Quad of course – I want one!



Recent Events: B.I.G Car Show in Cape Coral

The Seventh Annual B.I.G. European Sports and Collector Car Show (British, Italian & German)



Alfas Go Big at the South West Florida AROC B.I.G. Show !

Written by: Harmon Heed

B.I.G. is the acronym for British, Italian, German car show held annually in colorful Cape Coral on the west coast of Florida. The city is known for its manatees and many miles of manmade canals. The cars park in their reserved places under Spanish moss laden trees beside the wide, lazy moving Caloosahatchee River that bisects the state east to west, from Lake Okeechobee east to the Atlantic and west to where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico at scenic Ft Myers Beach and Sanibel Island.

Since there are many more British sports imports in the US about half of the cars on display were from the UK, including four distinguished, vintage Jaguar XK 120s and 140s. Another third of the show were Porsches and BMWs. Scott Crater of the SWFL AROC (Jr Zagato) displayed his rare 1973 BMW 3.0 CSL, a factory lightened, competition two door. But according to the event chair, Stan Dale, it was the 15 Alfas that drew the votes.

Recent Events: B.I.G Car Show in Cape Coral continued:



Judging was done by the entrants, one car per class. Alfas had only two classes: open and closed. Winner in the open class was Buddy & Marilyn Guynn's 1967 avorio Duetto; runner up was Harmon & Jo Heed's 1964 blond spider. Winner in the closed class was Delmas & Polly Greene's 1973 blue Mediocre Montreal; runner up was Frank & Maria Caruccio's deep blue, 1966 GT Sprint stepnose. Other big vote getters were Bob Lombardo's Alfa rossa 1992 spider veloce and John Rady's anthracite 1988 Milano Verde.



Recent Events: B.I.G Car Show in Cape Coral continued:



There were two other exceptional Italian cars on display. SWFL AROC member (4C) John Pokomy's 2005 Maserati spider 90th Special Edition of which only 90 were built and Vic Argento's 1972 Intermeccanica Italiana of which only 400 were built. The Italian's were designed and built by Frank Reisner in Turin, Italy and powered by Ford Cleveland 351 engines (akin to other Italian cars with big American engines like the Rivolta's Isos and the DeTomasos). Vic bought the car new in 1972, drove it from the east coast to San Diego, put the top down and drove up to San Francisco on scenic Hwy 1 through Big Sur & Carmel. What a way to enjoy an Italian car!



Recent Events: B.I.G Car Show in Cape Coral continued:

The B.I.G. was originally organized by the Triumph Club of SW Florida and has burgeoned into a 116 car event with aspirations of growing to 200 attendees. The annual responsibility rotates between that club, the Suncoast BMW Car Club and the SWFL AROC. Next year it will be the SWFLs turn and president Bob Lombardo and Buddy Guynn will bring even more emphasis on Alfas so, if you're in South West Florida early next March, be sure to be there, hopefully in an Alfa!



Recent Events: Amelia Island Concours de' Elegance March 7th – 10th



AMELIA ISLAND 2019 CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE



This years Amelia Island Concours de Elegance had perfect weather. In recent years the bad weather forecasted for Sunday forced the show to hold the Concours on Saturday pushing all the Cars & Coffee cars over to the third fairway and off of the main green with all the Manufacturer's exhibits. This had happened so often in fact, I half way expected a call from the show organizers Thursday on the way up to Fernandina Beach saying that a weather front had once again moved in and....well it did not happen this year thankfully.



Recent Events: Amelia Island Concours de' Elegance continued:

This year the mark was Volkswagon Prototypes – yes Volkswagon. In fact there were so many and so completely different from the Beatle, we have come to know and love, that most people never knew they were VW's at all. In fact they fooled a lot of people – us included – Friday morning in downtown Fernandina after the tour. The only thing that gave them away was one of them had a VW logo on the steering wheel. It was impossible to tell – until you closed your eyes and listen to the engine driving away and you heard that distinctive VW air cooled tone.

As usual Friday after the tour in Downtown Fernandina, has become the best way to see many of the show cars that will be displayed Sunday up close and personal without 50 people standing around them. It is an opportunity to see the cars up close and speak to the owners at length – something you could never do Sunday. The best part is it is free where as Sunday's tickets can cost you upwards of \$150 each much less the cost of an Amelia Club ticket which is over \$1,000 a ticket.

1951 Rometsch Beeskow Coupe – actually a VW prototype – There were several unique ones.



Friday evening the First Coast Alfa group – I think they have a new name now and re-organized – put on an Alfa Romeo reception and dinner at the Fernandina Woman's Club for well over 100 people hosting Alfa owners from all over the country. They plan to make this an annual event adding a drive as well going forward. If I had this show in my back yard – I would too.

Recent Events: Amelia Island Concours de' Elegance continued:

A Pre-War Alfa Romeo had garnished the top award of Best in Show the last few years, but this year the co-winners were Ferrari and Mercedes – continuing the tradition of Co-Winners - one a race car and one a luxury car.

A 1957 Ferrari 335 race car and a 1938 Mercedes 540K Autobahn-Kurier – Best in Show!



As far auction activity went, there were even more big-name auction houses present with an ever-increasing number of extraordinary cars going on the block. Russo – Steele were there this year joining Bonham's, Gooding, and RM plus several others. Monitoring all the auctions via a new phone app, it became very clear it was a buyers-market this year with many cars not meeting their reserves or selling for a fraction of their estimates. One notable sale was a 930 Porsche Turbo estimated to sell at over \$150K, and it actually sold for the bargain price of just \$50K, so there were a lot of bargains to be had this season. Depending on which side of the gavel you were on, you were either extremely happy and taking home a truck load of new investments or crying in your martini.

My little BMW 2002 (modified) had a prominent place for Saturday's Cars & Coffee right next to the BMW Pavilion. In fact, I was never able to sit down all day as the car was covered with people the entire time. I spent the day answering questions about my car and the 1973 Polaris Silver CSL parked next to me.

Up Coming Events: Weekend Driving Tour and Museum Sunday/Monday March 17-18th

Save the date on your calendar for the FAC annual Toad Rally/Tour and Lunch. More details to follow.



Up Coming Event: Festival of Speed <http://festivalofspeed.com/> at the Vinoy



Sunday April 7th at the Vinoy in St Petersburg.

<http://festivalofspeed.com/>

Let Barry Andress Know if you are coming

Alfabarry3@gmail.com

Upcoming Event: Gasparilla Concours d' Elegance



There is a new car show in Tampa set for Friday and Saturday April 12 – 13th with a dinner on Friday and the show on Saturday. It is located in the new Curtis Hixon Park right on the Hillsboro River and next to Tampa University.

If you are interested in attending click on this link to go to the web site and register your vehicle. Proceeds are donated to the Shriners Hospital for Children.

www.gasparillaconcours.com



Up Coming Events: Annual FAC Pizza & SIM Racing Event Sat. May 11st



Once again - this year we are holding Time Trials for the Florida Alfa Club's annual Pizza Party and SIM Racing Event held at the home of Ruggero & Carla Santilli. Test your skill around the Sebring Track in an exotic car for prizes and bragging rights not to mention Carla Santilli's spread of Italian delicacies, Pizza and Wine.

During practice laps – tours are available of Ruggero Santilli's paddock and garage. You never know what additions to his extensive car collection you will find.



Come ready for the competition and hungry for Food, Fun, and Laughter!

When: Saturday May 11st from 10:30 AM until the food is gone and tires are too.

Please RSVP to Polly Greene at pollyhgreene@yahoo.com as it is limited to the first 24 people. You must RSVP by email to make it on the list.

Calendar of Events:

March 2019 Events

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, March 2nd 8-10:00AM

B.I.G. Car Show – Cape Coral – Sunday March 3rd

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater Mar. 6th & 20th 11:30 AM

Amelia Island Concourse de” Elegance March 7th thru 10th

FAC Business Meeting – Carrabba’s Italian Grill Clearwater – March 14th 6:30PM

Annual FAC Road Tour Saturday March 16th – (Milton Watts)

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, March 16th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – March 30th, 8:00-10:00 AM

April 2019 Events

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater April 3rd & 17th, 11:30 AM

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, April 6th 8-10:00AM

Festival of Speed St Pete at the Vinoy Hotel Sunday April 7th

FAC Business Meeting – Carrabba’s Italian Grill Clearwater – Thursday April 11th 6:30PM

Gasparilla Concourse d’ Elegance – Curtis Hixon Park – Tampa April 13th

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, April 20th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – April 27th, 8:00-10:00 AM

May 2019 Events

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater May 1st – 15th & 29th 11:30 AM

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, May 4th 8-10:00AM

Car Show for Charity – Safety Harbor – May 5th (Barry Address)

FAC Business Meeting – Carrabba’s Italian Grill Clearwater – May 9th 6:30PM

Annual Pizza and SIM Racing Party Sat. May 11th – Ruggero/Carla Santilli’s House, 11:00-2:00 PM

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, May 18th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – May 25th, 8:00-10:00 AM

Calendar of Events: Continued

June 2019 Events

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, June 1st 8-10:00AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater June 10th & 24th 11:30 AM

FAC Business Meeting – TBD – June 13th 6:30PM

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, June 15th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – June 29th, 8:00-10:00 AM

July 2019 Events

NO FAC Meeting this month

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, July 6th 8-10:00AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater July 7th & 21th 11:30 AM

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, July 20th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – July 27th, 8:00-10:00 AM

August 2019 Events

NO FAC Meeting this month

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, Aug. 3rd 8-10:00AM

Tampa Bay Café Racers Lunch – Café Ponte Clearwater Aug. 12th & 26th 11:30 AM

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, Aug. 17th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – Aug. 31st 8:00-10:00 AM

September 2019 Events

Coming Soon.

October 2019 Events

Coming Soon.

November 2019 Events

Coming Soon.

December 2019 Events

Coming Soon.

Restoration Projects:

Note: Do you have an Alfa under restoration – who doesn't right? Well send us your progress photos to share with the club whether just a paint job or a bare metal full on restoration.

Cars for Sale:

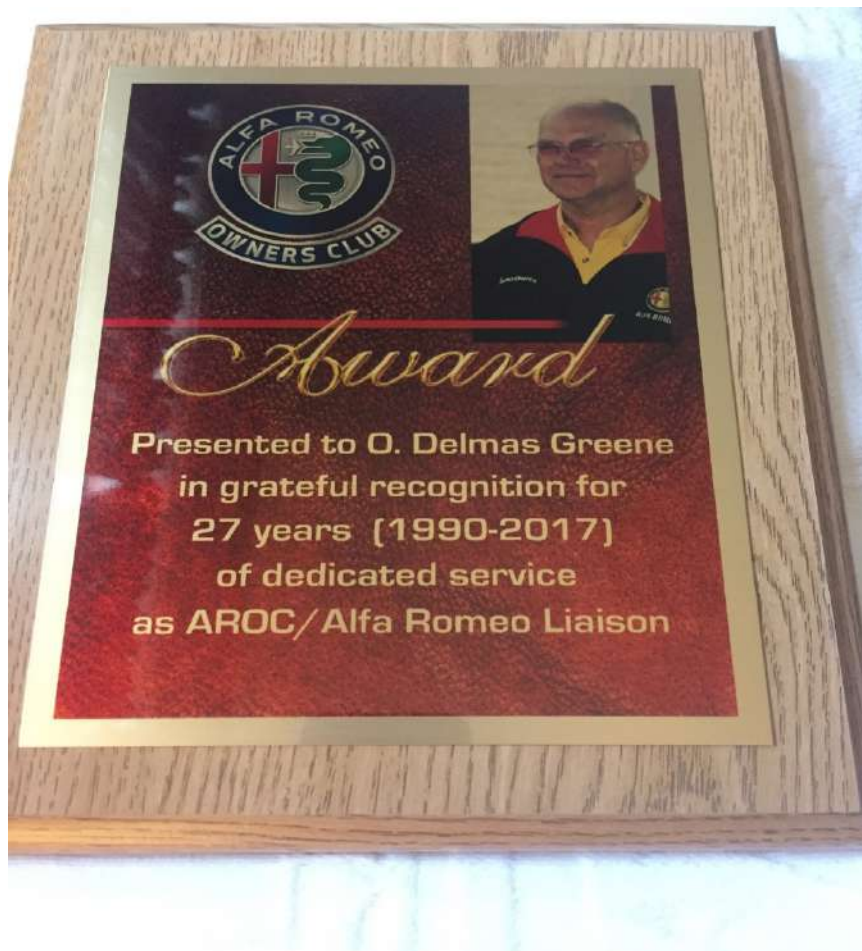


Note: Sell your vintage Alfa here. Its free to FAC members. Just send us photos and a brief description of your car, what you want for it, and how to reach you. There is another Alfisti looking for your car now!

Note from the Editor: This is your newsletter so please give us feedback both as to how we are doing and areas where we can improve. It is free to list and sell you Alfa in the Notizia if you are an active member. Also remember if you are restoring a vintage Alfa either yourself or at a professional shop, we want to know about it and feature your journey and progress here for everyone to see.

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1