

Canzone *The Alfa Song* *di Alfa*

THE NEWSLETTER

OF A.L.F.A. INC.



TN ALFA ROMEO

OWNERS CLUB

February 2017



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Canzone di Alfa

The official publication of A.L.F.A, Inc., the Tennessee Alfa Romeo **A.L.F.A, Inc. Board of Directors** Owners Club, a non-profit organization of Alfa Romeo enthusiasts, which is a regional chapter of the National Alfa Romeo Owners Club, Inc. (AROC). A.L.F.A., Inc. is incorporated in the state of Tennessee.

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Disclaimer:

Canzone di Alfa

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Alfa Romeo Owners Club

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1-877-399-AROC (toll free)
Phone: 816-459-7462
aroc.office@gmail.com

President's message

I am pleased to announce that Larry Smith has volunteered to serve as a member of the National AROC Board of Directors. The entire membership of all affiliates will vote for six new board members soon. Watch for it in the Owner and vote for Larry. As a volunteer organization, we always appreciate anyone willing to participate in any leadership capacity. Larry will be a great addition to the National Board. Thanks Larry.

Cindy Banzer wrote in the December Alfa Owner that "Our task is to welcome new members" who have bought the new cars. If you have a relationship with folks at Alfa dealerships, get a copy of the club application to them in the hope that they will give that to their customers after the sale. I have an electronic version of the application if you need it. It would be great to have a new Giulia lead us on a drive somewhere.

Rick Andreoli of the Atlanta club recommends another event that we Alfa enthusiasts need to attend. Fiat on the Dragon has invited Alfa Romeos as a special group to its annual event originating in Townsend Tennessee, Friday March 31st through Sunday April 2nd. See fiatonthedragon.com. Only 150 registrant spaces available. Benson Fiat Alfa is a sponsor. Our club member, friend and sponsor of our convention, John Montgomery will certainly be there. Penny and I will be there, staying at the Townsend Gateway Hotel. Please join us and let's make a showing of Alfa Romeos among all the new 500's and 124's.

Relatively new member Rob Morrow informed us of the Coker Chattanooga Cruise In, Saturday, April 1 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT. Rob has included a list of events and activities in this newsletter. Several of our club members will be at the Giro della Primavera in Asheville, NC organized by the Mid-Atlantic Club Thursday, April 6 through Sunday, April 9. Ponder the crisp beautiful spring days driving through the vistas of the Appalachian Mountains and make plans to be there. Friday will include a "hot tub soak" at Hot Spring Resort and Spa, NC. I am really looking forward to that! Rob emailed the details to everyone earlier. Contact him or me for that information if you need it.

Another opportunity to visit and drive with other Alfisti will be at the 26th St. Louis Club's Spring Fling. This will happen May 5-7, in Washington, MO. Rooms are being held until April 1 at the Super 8 Hotel, Washington, MO, call 636-390-0088 and mention "Alfa Romeo Club". I certainly hope to see the western state members there and any of you whose cars will need a good mid-spring exercise. You know how nice the weather can be that time of year. Let's have a good showing of Tennessee members at this event. Book your rooms. Registration info next month.

Penny and I are booked in at the Point Claire Holiday Inn for the Montreal Convention Wednesday, July 12 through Monday July 17. WestJet.com has service from Nashville to Montreal through Toronto. Southwest Airline to Manchester, NH is only a four-hour drive from Montreal. I am having a travel agent work on other options for me. I will have them book for you too if you just let me know. What a great opportunity to see the capital of the North American French speaking world and Canadian Alfas too. If the Toronto Convention was any indication, these guys will do a great job. Hope to see you there.

Please plan to attend as many of these activities as you can fit into your busy schedules.

Spring's in the air, be ready.

Bo

Viva Alfa Romeo

New Member

Tom Kominos



This is my "new" 1993 Alfa Spider. All original with one repaint. I want to thank Bob Simonds for his help locating this car.

I had been looking for a British sports car for some time when I happened to notice some Alfas for sale in my Hemmings magazine. I was quite familiar with the British sports cars. I did a complete ground-up restoration of a Triumph TR3 in the past, as well as doing a current restoration of a TR3. I knew nothing about Alfas so I called Bob to learn about them. Needless to say, I was impressed by the amount of standard equipment available and the reasonable price. Bob sold me on Alfas and I was fortunate to find such a nice car. I live in McMinnville with my lovely wife, Annette and our cute dog "Duffy".



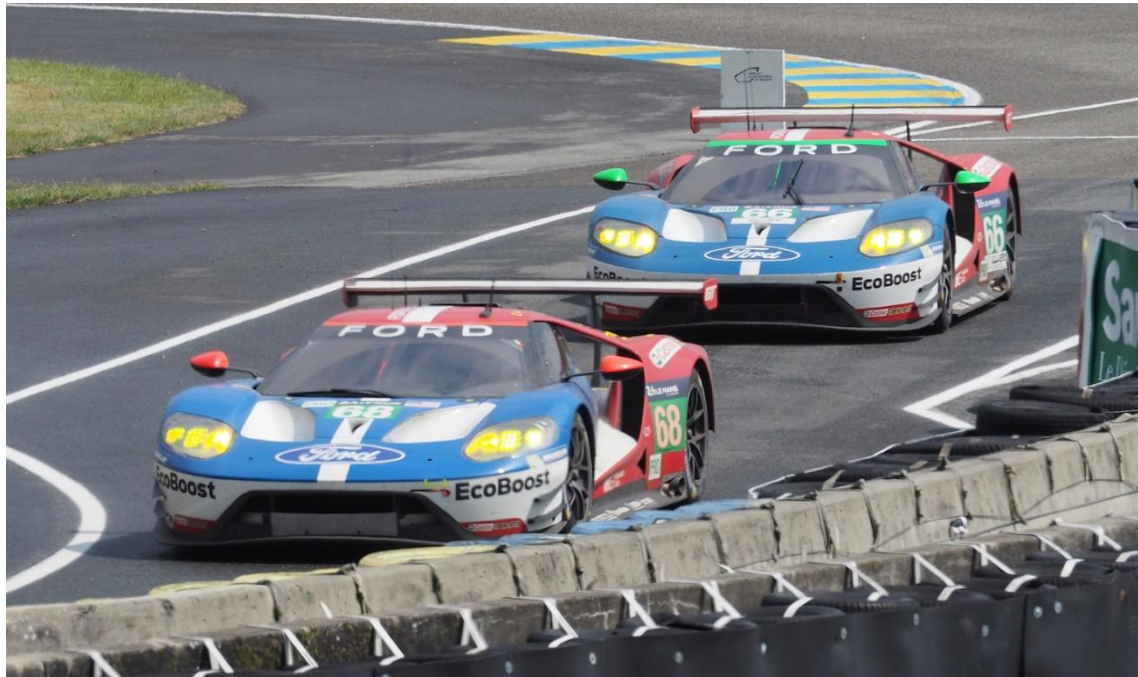
Letter from Europe

Norm Thomas

Best wishes for 2017 to all AROC Tennessee Alfisti. I'm very grateful to Bob for sending me the Canzone Newsletter each month so I can keep up to date with what's happening over there, and I'd like to congratulate you all for the very successful convention in Nashville. I wish I could have been there but I was at my niece's wedding in Tuscany. I was with you in spirit!

It's been quite a busy year for Elaine and I in Europe. We spent almost half of the year at our apartment in Andalusia where we furnished and re-decorated to get the place to our taste. We have really enjoyed spending time there and have made quite a few friends, and have travelled around quite a bit – so far visiting Granada, Segovia, Bilbao and San Sebastien. Andalusia is so close to the UK, only a couple of hours' flight time and only one hour time difference, that we've had plenty of visitors.

In June I went to Le Mans for the 24 hour race for the second time. There was little of Alfa interest, but as an ex-Ford person, I was happy to see the Ford GT entries come first and second in their class, beating the Ferraris, Astons, Porsches and Corvettes. I was metaphorically waving the Stars and Stripes.



On the Alfa front, we attended the AROC UK National Day at Chatsworth House back in July. This event is much lower key than the U.S. Conventions. It's a one-day affair with a multi-class concours, but nothing else in the way of side attractions. I think that's because the UK is much smaller than the USA so members get together for seven or eight events throughout the year in different parts of the country, whereas distances in the USA (and associated time and expense) limit national get togethers to once a year, so it makes sense to pack a lot in.

Here's a picture of our Mito Distinctive with Elaine in the driver's seat and Chatsworth House in the background.



There were about 700 cars at the event, though the majority of them were models that were sold in Europe after Alfa stopped selling cars in the USA. There were plenty of 105 series cars, and a fascinating barn find 6C2300. Chatsworth House, where the event was held is like Downton Abbey on steroids. It's one of the grandest of the many UK stately homes, and it's set in a lovely part of the country known as The Peak District.



Alfa Romeo "Duettos"



4C Coupes and Spiders

In between our trips to Spain, I've been busy working on the restoration of my 1973 Lancia Fulvia, a close cousin to the Alfa 105 Giulias. I've stripped the car of its trim and glass and done a fair amount of body work restoration. I'm waiting to get a new rear panel and rear valance welded in place before I can have the car repainted, hopefully early summer of this year. I've had the seats retrimmed, and I've refurbished the wooden dashboard. I also bought a wooden gear knob and have fitted a Roman coin from the year 195AD to it. It shows the head of Fulvia Plautilla, the wife of the emperor Caracalla. Can't be many cars with an 1800 year old gear knob!



←
What Norm's
1973 Lancia Fulvia
will look like following
its complete restoration



A highlight of the year was when our son, Paul announced that he had become an Alfa Romeo owner, the third-generation owner in our family after my Dad and me. His car is a 6 year old 156 Sport Wagon. It drives really well and is in immaculate condition. It's a good fit for his business needs as he carries a lot of camera and lighting equipment, as well as our 5 year old grandson in his safety seat. Here's his car.



The new Giulia has attracted a lot of interest here in the UK, with one respected magazine giving it its Car of the Year Award and I'm looking forward to seeing how it sells. The following model, the Stelvio, also looks interesting. I'm hoping to get to plenty of motoring events this year, starting with the Malaga Retro Show in Spain next weekend. I'll be going to the Nurburgring in June for the WEC (LeMans Car) Race, and I'm hoping to get to Milan some time to visit the Alfa Romeo Museum. I'll keep you posted on anything of Alfa interest.

All the best y'all, Norm.

Alfa History

IN THE BEGINNING

Famous companies often have curious beginnings. So it was with Alfa Romeo of Milan. Known for its history in motor sport, more than eighty Grand Prix victories, innumerable wins in European contests like the Targa Florio, the Milla Miglia and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, it owes its origin to a Frenchman, Alexandre Darracq. His company started life as an exercise in business speculation whose purpose was to produce cars as cheaply and as quickly as possible. To begin with, it was not called Alfa nor Romeo and was not even based in Milan. The first offices and factory were in Naples and went by the name of S.A.I.D. – Societa Anonima Italiana Darracq. Before the factory was finished, the SAID directors realized that Naples was the wrong place to build, as parts were having to be shipped from Paris. They believed communications would be much better if they were to relocate to Milan.

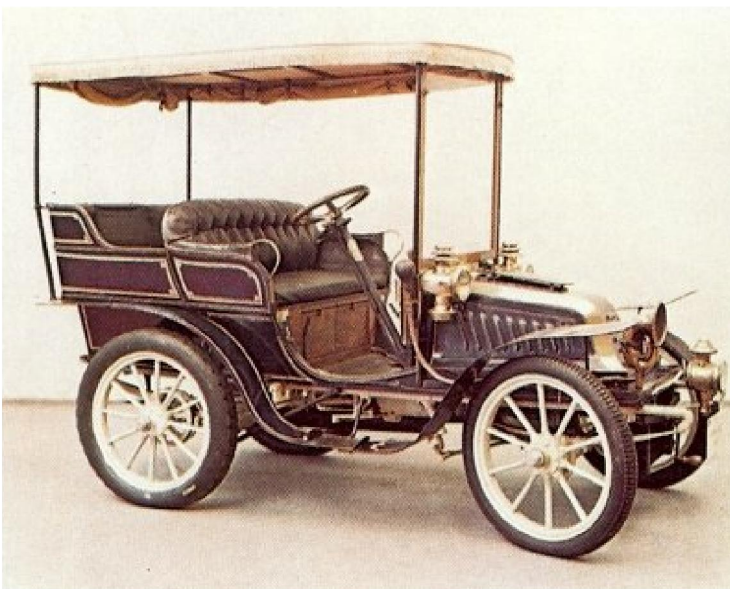


Alexandre Darracq

After moving to Milan in the autumn of 1906 and building on a new site in the suburb of Portello, production of cars did not begin until 1908. Sales in Italy did not go well as an economic crisis in Europe developed which resulted in the biggest commercial disaster for Darracq. Italian drivers found Darracq cars to be too small, lacked power and had inadequate brakes for coping with Italian hills. By the end of 1909, SAID was close to bankruptcy.

SAID's managing director, Cavalier Ugo Stella, knew the company had to find something more suited to the likes of the Italian market, or go out of business altogether. He contacted Guiseppi Merosi, a designer who was working for Fiat and later Bianchi. Merosi was placed in charge of producing some new designs better suited to Italian conditions and requirements.





This Darracq used a single-cylinder 1281cc engine producing 9 bhp at 1200 rpm.



1908 8/10hp Darracq, which was fitted with an 1100cc single engine.

Stella and his colleagues sought out financial backing for the establishment of a new automobile company. Between them they were able to arrange a loan of half a million lire from Banca Agricola Milanese to support the project. The connection with Darracq was severed and on June 24, 1910 a new company was formed – Societa Anonima Lombarda Fabbrica Automobili, with Guiseppi Merosi as its chief engineer and Ugo Stella as its managing director. A.L.F.A. had seen the light of day, but would it do any better than their disastrous predecessors?

The first non-Darracq car produced by the company was the 1910 24 HP, designed by Merosi.



Giuseppe Merosi

A.L.F.A. ventured into motor racing, with drivers Franchini and Ronzoni competing in the 1911 Targa Florio with two 24-hp models.



In August 1915, the company came under the direction of Neapolitan entrepreneur Nicola Romeo, who converted the factory to produce military hardware for the Italian and Allied war efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALFA, Inc. will hold its quarterly business meeting on Saturday, March 25th at Larry Benson's home at 5565 Jackson Ferry Road in Greenback, TN. The meeting will begin at 12:00 Noon, Eastern time. Larry will be providing his famous spaghetti. Accompaniments such as salad, appetizers, bread and dessert are welcome.

Directions to Larry Benson's home

FROM NASHVILLE

Take I-40 toward Knoxville

Exit 364 for US-321/TN-95 toward Lenoir City

Merge onto 321N/TN-73/TN-95

Turn right onto TN-95

Turn right onto Jackson Ferry Rd.

Larry Benson's home will be on the left

FROM MURFREESBORO

Take I-24 toward Nashville

Take I-840N to I-40 toward Knoxville

FROM CHATTANOOGA

Take I-75N toward Knoxville

Take US-321/TN-95 (exit 81) toward Lenoir City/Oak Ridge

Turn right onto 321N/TN-95/TN-73

Turn right onto TN-95

Turn right onto Jackson Ferry Rd. (Larry's home is on the left)

CHATTANOOGA CRUISE-IN

The Chattanooga Cruise-in is a fun and easy one day event sponsored by Coker Tire which is headquartered in Chattanooga. No registration. No judging. Just show up and have fun. It runs from 8 AM - 4 PM (ET) on Saturday, April 1st. Last year there were about 2,000 cars. You can see lots of Classic American cars, Muscle Cars, old trucks, Rat Rods, Volkswagens, Cobras and all variety of other vehicles. There's always several European cars in the mix (Jags, Porsches, MG's, Triumphs, etc.) but they are definitely in the minority.

It would be great to get a bunch of Alfas out in a show of force. In addition to the cruise-in, the Coker Museum is open all day where you can see a fantastic collection of vintage American and European cars dating from the early 1900's through the 1970's. Anyone interested in attending can contact Rob Marrow at **(859) 433-0631** or email him at rob_marrow@yahoo.com by **MARCH 1** so he can round everyone up in a special show area and coordinate a drive to the show together from somewhere in Chattanooga.



Check out the cruise-in here: [Chattanooga Cruise-in | Saturday April 1, 2017](#)

2017 MID-ATLANTIC ALFA ROMEO CLUB SPRING TOUR

Giro della Primavera *John Moore Memoriale*

TOUR ITINERARY:

Our drive will be based in Asheville, NC

THU - APR 6: Afternoon meet at Host Hotel and Dinner.

FRI - APR 7: Drive to Hot Springs Resort & Spa, NC and Hot Tub soak! <https://www.nhotsprings.com>
Those not partaking of the waters can visit the town of Hot Springs. Return to Asheville for Dinner.

SAT - APR 8: Drive, return to Asheville for Catered Dinner and a Silent Auction of John's Alfa memorabilia and spare parts. All proceeds from the auction will be split between the Blue Ridge Orchestra & Mid-Atlantic AROC.

SUN - APR 9: Short Drive, Lunch and return Home.

HOST HOTEL: **Comfort Suites Outlet Center**

<https://www.choicehotels.com>

890 Brevard Rd, Asheville NC • 828 665-4000

Group Rate: \$99 Thursday / \$145 Friday & Saturday.

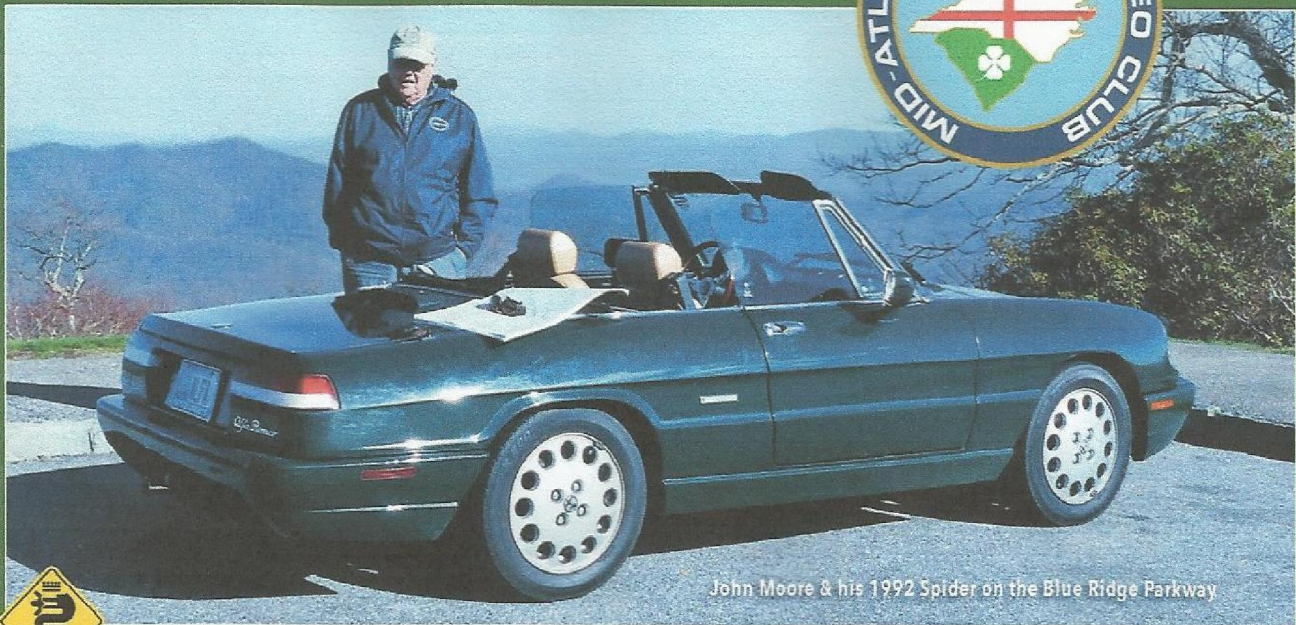
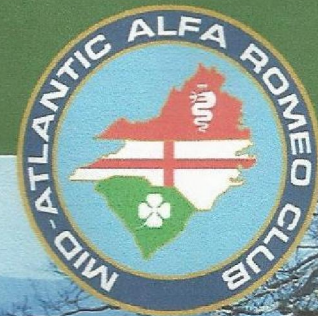
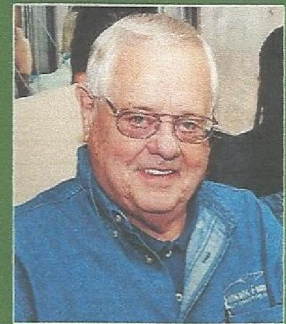
Ask for Alfa Romeo Club group rate. Room block held until March 23, 2017. Cancellation with no penalty by April 3, 2017.

This year our Spring Tour is dedicated to John Moore, our fellow Alfisto, who passed away on 9/29/2016.

Long time Alfa enthusiast John and his wife Ruth enjoyed participating in many Alfa events, especially our drives around the Asheville area in his 1992 green Spider. John & Ruth were previously very active members of AROO in Oregon before moving to Asheville in 2012. Among many other things, John was president of the Blue Ridge Orchestra. <http://www.blueridgeorchestra.org/johnmoore>



Vintage Alfa Romeo Plate
from John's Alfa memorabilia



John Moore & his 1992 Spider on the Blue Ridge Parkway



NOTIZIA! A firm head count is needed for reservations. You may join us for any day of the Tour.

Please inform us of number in your party for each day's meal and drive, and for Hot Tub reservations.

Also, what car you'll be driving. No penalty points for non-Alfas!

Respond directly to Jay Maveety / maveety@charter.net / 828-628-0840.

2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Pricing

GIULIA



Alfa Romeo Giulia – Well-Equipped from \$37,995 MSRP



Giulia: \$37,995 RWD / \$39,995 AWD MSRP

- All-New RWD Architecture with a focus on Driving Dynamics
- Stunning Italian Design
- 2.0L Direct Injection Intercooled Turbo 4-cylinder
 - Best-in-Class 280 HP & 306 lb-ft Torque
 - Best-in-Class 0-60 in 5.1 Seconds & Top Speed of 149 mph
- Near Perfect 50:50 Weight Distribution
- Standard Bi-Xenon Headlamps, DNA Mode Selector, LED Daytime Running Lights (DRLs), Leather Seating, 7-inch TFT, Back-up Camera and more
- Available Sport Appearance Package

Giulia Ti: \$39,995 RWD / \$41,995 AWD MSRP

- Enhancing luxury with additional standard features including 18-inch Aluminum Wheels, 8.8-inch wide-screen infotainment, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Genuine Wood Accents & more
- Available Sport and Lusso Appearance Packages
- Available Performance Package

Giulia Quadrifoglio: \$72,000 MSRP

- Halo Model of the Alfa Romeo Giulia Line-up
- Alfa Romeo's Most Powerful Production Car Engine Ever
- 2.9L Bi-Turbo Direct Injection V6
 - Best-in-Class 505 hp
 - Best-in-Class 0-60 mph in 3.8 Seconds
 - Best-in-Class Top Speed of 191 MPH
 - Nürburgring Lap Time Record – 7:32s
- Near Perfect 50:50 Weight Distribution
- Best-in-Class Power to Weight Ratio
- Carbon Fiber and Aluminum Lightweight Construction
- Class Exclusive Active Aero Carbon Fiber Front Splitter
- Standard Alfa DNA Pro with RACE Mode, 3D 8.8-inch wide-screen Navigation, Torque Vectoring, Performance Leather & Alcantara® Seats, Genuine Carbon Fiber Accents, and much more.





2017 Events Schedule

<https://www.facebook.com/ALFA-Inc-of-Tennessee-252440884797937/>

<http://www.tnalfa.com/wp/>

ALFA, Inc. TN Official Club events and Club Participation events in Red.

*** See the Facebook page or Club website (above links) for details on Club Meetings.**

**** Cars & Coffee is every Saturday. Included dates are for the first Saturdays of April – Nov. Exotics are included on First Saturdays. We have Alfas in TN. That's pretty exotic to me. 😊**

Please bring a dish to the quarterly club meetings. Details to follow in the newsletter and on FB / Web.

FEB: No Scheduled Events.

MAR 10 – 12: Amelia Island Concours. <https://ameliakoncours.org>

MAR 25: Saturday Noon EDT. Club Meeting. Spaghetti Lunch. Benson's. 5565 Jackson Ferry Rd, Greenback, TN, 37742 *

MAR 31 – APR 2: Fiat (& Alfa) on the Dragon. Townsend, TN. <http://fiatonthedragon.com>

APR 1: Saturday. 8AM – 4PM EDT Coker Chattanooga Cruise-In. Chattanooga, TN. chattanoogaacruise-in.com

APR 1: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

APR 6-9: Giro della Primavera. Mid-Atlantic /Atlanta Club Spring Tour. Asheville, NC. (Flyer previously emailed)

APR 21-23: The Classic Motorsports Mitty Vintage Car Races. Road Atlanta. Braselton, GA. <https://www.themitty.com/>

MAY 6: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

MAY 5-7: St. Louis Alfa Club Spring Fling. Rally, Autocross, Winery, Art Exhibit, Concours. Washington, MO.

<http://www.stlaroc.com/images/registration2017b.pdf>

JUN 3: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

JUN 8-11: Highlands Motoring Festival featuring "Cars of Italy". Highlands, NC. <http://highlandsmotoringfestival.com>

JUN 17: Saturday Noon CDT. Club Meeting, Lunch and Fun Rally. Simonds'. 11069 Hwy 150, Sequatchie, TN 37374 *

JUL 1: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

JUL 13-16: ALFA EXPO 17. US and Canadian Alfa Clubs Joint Convention. Montreal. Alfaclu.ca/alfaexpo17

JUL 13-16: Keeneland Concours d'Elegance. 300+ club cars + Concours. Keeneland Race Track. Lexington, KY

<http://www.keenelandconcours.com/>

AUG 5: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

SEP 1: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

SEPT 16 – Saturday 12:30 PM EDT. Club Mtg. and Italian Food Fest. Tilden's. 3659 Sourwood Trail NW, Cleveland, TN 37312 *

SEP 30-OCT 1: Atlanta Concours. Saturday - Cars & Coffee. Sunday - Concours. atlantaconcours.org

OCT 7: Cars & Coffee. 8-10 AM CDT. Carmike Theater Parking Lot. Cool Springs Mall. 633 Frazier Dr, Franklin, TN **

OCT 14: Atlanta Italian Car Day. Norcross, GA. ItalianCarDayAtlanta.com

NOV – TBD. Tail of the Dragon Run. Robbinsville, NC. Tapoco Lodge. <http://tapocolodge.com>

DEC – TBD: ALFA, Inc. of Tennessee Holiday Party.