



February 2018

Volume 5 Issue 2

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



Alfa Romeo Selection of the

Month for February 2018.

Car Name: Is this Alfa aggressive enough for you?



News: Alfa Service Van Recently Spotted

Recently spotted on Bring a Trailer was this brilliant red Alfa Romeo Service Van. What Alfisti would not want such a van to haul around all his rowdy friends and an ample supply of Alfa spare parts. The perfect "Chase Vehicle" for an Alfa rally or road tour

https://bringatrailer.com/2018/02/10/autotutto-restored-1982-alfa-romeo-f12/?utm_source=dailymail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2018-02-11



And it has a venerable Perkins 4/108 diesel engine that will last forever. They don't make them anymore but parts are readily. I have one in [TRVTH](#) and treasure its dependability.



Recent Events: FAC Annual Polo Event



Alfa Royale Equine

The weather forecast a 70% chance of rain in Sarasota on January 28th but that didn't scare away many Alfisti and friends from the annual Florida Alfa Club gathering at the Sarasota Polo Club. Twelve Alfas, one Maserati and almost fifty members and friends braved the wind and overcast skies to watch magnificent thoroughbreds race, twist and turn as their riders wacked away at a tiny 3 ¼" ball with 4 ½' mallets to knock it through narrow goal posts at each end of a 300meter field. There was much more thunder on the field than in the sky!

There's a reason polo is called "The Sport of Kings." It's money. Each team consists of four players and each game consists of six chukkers, 7 ½ minutes each. The eight riders get a fresh horse every chukker. There are two mounted umpires. That adds up to 50 thoroughbreds per game. How much does a thoroughbred cost? About the price of a Ferrari. Polo is played on circuits, in the South during the Winter and the North during the Summer. The horses have to be transported to different fields in long trailers pulled by powerful trucks, both expensive. Their stabling cost is over \$1,200 a month each. The players move from hotel to hotel and eat most of their meals in restaurants. The player's and horse's health insurance must cost a treasure chest. Yet we are fortunate to pay only \$15 a person to watch this sovereign spectacle.

Recent Events: FAC Annual Polo Event continued:

FAC members in attendance were: event chair Bob Scott and his wife, Carolyn in their red, 1987 spider Quadrifoglio, Harmon & Jo Heed in their blond, 1964 spider, Delmas & Polly Greene in their white, 2017 Giulia Lusso, Bruce Brock in his Rosso, 2015 4C Launch, John Rady in his anthracite, 1988 Milano Verde, Chip Denyko in his giallo, 1993 spider Veloce, Tom & Carol Rossi in their Madreperia white, 2016 4C spider, and three silver spiders, Jim & Gabie Zitnick in their pristine, 1991 Veloce, John Picot in his hard topped, 1987 Quadrifoglio and new member, Allan Flores in his hard topped, 1976 Veloce. Allan's top is a unique leather grained black. (He recently moved to Florida from Texas.) Jeff & JoAnn Hanson's red, 1993 spider Veloce lost her brakes on the way down from Palmetto but they must have been carrying a lucky horseshoe because it happened very near Jeff's mechanic's shop and they were able to safely limp in and park it there.

As usual, on the picnic table beneath the tent, there was more food than a herd of horses could eat. And the red spider drivers truly "tailgated" by laying out their cuisine on the flat trunks of their spiders. By the time the game began at 1:00 there was a picket line of lawn chairs set up between the tent and the field and filled with well fed Alfisti and friends. Note, the only thing protecting the spectators from the whizzing white ball and four tons of thundering thoroughbreds is a 1' high board . . . that does add to the excitement!

We were joined by some of our southern compatriots from the South West Florida Club; Pres. Bob Lombardo in his red, 1992 spider Veloce, Joe & Susan Stigliano in their red, 1978 spider Veloce and guest Matt Wolken in his white, 2012 Maserati Granturismo 5 spider.

There were also FAC members not in Alfas: Nino & Violet Montipoli, Tony & Mary Kathryn Paolini, Dave Wolfe and SWFLs Frank & Maria Carrucio and Ray LaBrosse who's white, 1991 spider Veloce suffered a leaking fuel line leaving Lehigh Acres.

At halftime, between the 3rd and 4th chukkers, spectators go out onto the field and stomp the divots back into their holes. Warning: never stomp on a steaming divot! But this year the wind began to pipe up and the forecast rain became imminent. Without hurry or worry the spider's tops were raised, the FAC flags were lowered, the food was packed back into the trunks and folks started to filter home. Except the horses and riders who played on and the Stiggys who had too much food to leave and two large umbrellas to keep them dry. Even though the event was shortened, it was a galloping success, thanks to the efforts of Bob & Carolyn Scott!

Recent Events: FAC Annual Polo Event continued:



Recent Events: Exotic Car Show Lakewood Ranch:



Romping with the Cavalinos at the Lakewood Ranch Exotic Car Fest, Sarasota,FL.

The Sarasota, now Lakewood Ranch, Exotic Car Fest is a distinguished event that has become a February fixture in Sarasota, known as the Cultural Capital of Florida's west Sun Coast. It originated in 2004 as the Sarasota Ferrari & Italian Exotic Car Fest. For its first ten years it was held on the prestigious St. Armand's Circle, Sarasota's "Rodeo Drive" on Lido Key. In 2015 it outgrew the Circle and moved to downtown Main Street, also lined with boutique shops and fine restaurants. In 2017 it moved inland to larger, Lakewood Ranch Main Street, also lined with boutiques and restaurants.

This year it hosted 76 Italian exotics: 46 Ferraris, seven Lamborghinis, three Maserati's, one Lancia and 18 very fine Alfa Romeos. Our Portello ponies were romping with the Cavalinos! There were also non-Italian exotics: a plethora of Porsches, five Ford GT40s, four Aston Martins, three AMG Gullwings, and two McLarens and Nobles. Over 100 exotics and no hot rods, muscle or pony cars. Quite a gathering for a small city by the sea.

Many of the cars in the show, especially those presented in the Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Jaguar, Rolls Royce/Bentley, Mercedes and Austin Martin dealer's groups were new. Most of the privately-owned cars were made in this century too, smooth, beautiful but indistinguishable by year. There were a few exceptions: a mid-1970s Ferrari GT4, and in a small British enclave a 1964 E Jag, a Lotus Super 7 and a 1961 race built TR3.

Recent Events: Exotic Car Show Lakewood Ranch:

The age of the crowd surrounded the age of the cars. Although Florida is known as a retirement haven and most of the snow birds have snow colored hair, it was a joy to see young people threading their baby carriages amongst the cars with their bambinos waving up at us. The spectators gravitated to the Alfa show area and stayed longer looking at the older, more classic designs like Mike Villani's recently restored (by Bill Gillham) Blu Notte, 1958 Sprint veloce, Harmon & Jo Heed's blond, 1964 Giulia spider abnormale, Delmas & Polly Greene's Blue Mediocre, 1973 Montreal, John Picot's Rosso Amaranto 1973 2000 GT Veloce and Sue & Bob Prancevic's ravishing red 1974 spider Veloce.



Some of the white hairs reminisced looking at the older Alfas. One looked at Bob Prancevic's spider and gushed, "I had a MG just like that when I was in college."

This year's show had a theme: "Cars in the Movies." Included were the gleaming black, 1955 Cadillac from "Driving Miss Daisy," one of the paranormally equipped "Ghost Buster" slime mobiles, Bruce Wayne's Batmobile, and a "Back to the Future" DeLorean with the roof mounted, convoluted, flux capacitor. The Alfa entry was Phil Rosile's red, 1969 round-tail spider. In the seats were sitting manikins of Ben and Elaine, still in her wedding gown, like when they drove off at the end of the 1967 movie, "The Graduate." He had a tape playing Simon & Garfunkel singing "Coo, coo ca-choo, Mrs. Robinson."

Instead of picketing the Alfa Romeo contingent along the street COL (Ret) Heed organized them in a precise, military phalanx that captured the spectators. In front of every car was an 11"x17" placard in an acrylic holder that gave the car's year and model and listed its specs or told a story about the car. It provided the spectators an inkling of info about our little-known cars and they would eagerly ask questions.

Recent Events: Exotic Car Show Lakewood Ranch:

On one side of the formation, from front to rear, were Mike Villani's sprint Veloce, John Picot's GTV, Tom & Carol Rossi's Madreperia white, 2016 4C spider, the Prancevic's spider, Chip Denyko's Gaillo Bilbao, 1993 spider Veloce, Jim & Gabie Zitnick's Argenta, 1991 spider Veloce that is so new it still has the original wiper blades on it and Bob Lombardo's Alfa red, 1992 spider Veloce. Bob is the South West Florida AROC pres and drove all the way up from Bonita Springs. On the other flank were the Greene's Montreal, the Heed's Giulia spider, Bruce Brock's Alfa Rosso, 2015 4C Launch, new FAC member Allan Flores' Grigio Chiaro, 1975 spider Veloce with its Texas cow hide hard top, Tony & Janine Martinelli's Giallo Bilbao, 1992 spider Veloce, Bob & Carolyn Scott's Alfa red, 1987 spider Quadrifoglio and Jeff Schuyler's Bordeaux, 1991 spider Veloce. Jeff is another SWFL member that drove over three hours from Miami to the show.



In a perimeter outside the cars the Alfa Club members set up our chairs and umbrellas. We were close enough to those on the other side to get their attention with a wave or light holler. We were also close enough to answer spectator's questions and, when a spectator got his phone out for a photo, we would often invite them to sit in our car and take a picture of them in it. They loved it!

Recent Events: Exotic Car Show Lakewood Ranch:

Down the middle of the formation, front and center, was Dr. Ruggero y Carla Santilli's Azzuro, 2012 Stradale TZ3, Jim & Julie Harn's deep burgundy, 1954 Lancia Aurelia B24S (it's been on the grass at Amelia) and Tim Roger's Rossa Competizione, 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio. We missed John & Linda Rady in their Anthracite, 1988 Milano Verde but they succumbed to the winter flu the day prior.



Recent Events: Exotic Car Show Lakewood Ranch:

There's a saying that Florida has only two seasons: Summer and Hell. February in Florida is in the middle of its winter wonderland Summer. On the day of the Lakewood Ranch Exotic Car Fest it was a dry 85 degrees, a cooling breeze pushed a few, fluffy white clouds along above us. Around us were our beloved Alfas, good friends and friendly spectators. Our show area was right next to Pincher's Crab House. The manager, Antonio, had accepted reservations for 28 of us for lunch and when we showed up en-masse the adjacent tables were set and waitresses Nicole and Cindy served us like we were only a party of four.



This ascending show is emerging into a regional event. The organizers have promised the Florida Alf Club more display area if we continue to provide the quality of cars we always have. We have grown from two in 2008 to 19 this year. We invite other club's members to apply to display their Alfas with us next year. Cars don't have to be concours quality or restored, just clean, detailed and with no major flaws. We will have to vet a car before acceptance. The registration fee is \$50 and 100% of that goes to charity. So, if you want to romp in your pristine, Portello pony with the Cavalinos in sunny Florida next February, contact Harmon at harmonheed@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events: The B.I.G Show



The Sixth Annual B.I.G. European Sports and Collector Car Show

(British, Italian & German)

Sunday, March 04, 2018

Jaycee Park, 4215 SE 20 Place, Cape Coral, FL 33904

(Rain or Shine)

Sponsored by

Triumphs of Southwest Florida, (TSWFL)

We have another opportunity this year for various clubs to have their members share with fellow enthusiasts and the public their enjoyment and experiences of owning a **B.I.G.** European sports or collector car.

British

Italian

German



This car show is free to the public and open to all **B.I.G.** European sports and collector cars, vintage and modern, held on Sunday, March 04, 2018 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Participating cars can enter the show-field between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Balloting closes at 1:00 pm. Participants will vote for their favorite cars within each class. Show ends at 2:00 pm. Awards presentation follows immediately.

***** **Pre-registration will end on February 18th.** All show entry material will be provided at sign-in.

Go to: www.tswfl.org for The B.I.G. Show Registration Form

This show features European Sports & Collector Cars, 50/50 drawing, vendor tables and more...

Hot Food and Cold Drinks provided by **St. Andrew's Boy Scout Troop 34.**

Registration Fees:

Pre-Registration, (pre-registration ensures you will be parked in your class during the show and we have the correct number of trophies) First Car is **\$30.00**. Additional cars are \$25.00 each. Cars registered after Feb. 18th, are all **\$45.00**. **Registration limited to 200 Vehicles.**

Event Coordinator, Dennis McKinley, can be contacted at (239) 283-1534 or dennis-mckinley@comcast.net

Upcoming Events: The B.I.G Show continued:

Are you coming from out of town to be in the 2018 B.I.G. Show?

We are glad you can make it, so we have left the light on at the Casa Loma Motel for less expensive rooms than the **Holiday Inn Express** listed below. **The Casa Loma** has reasonable rates for Saturday night, March 3rd and Sunday night, March 4th. Reserve your room as soon as possible. The Casa Loma Motel is 1.5 miles or 3 minutes from Jaycee Park.

Casa Loma Motel,

3608 Del Prado Blvd South,
Cape Coral, Florida 33904,
Phone: 877- CASALOMA or 239-549-6000



Another option close to Jaycee Park is the **Holiday Inn Express**. The Holiday Inn is 1.6 miles or about 4 minutes from Jaycee Park.

Holiday Inn Express

1538 Cape Coral Pkwy E,
Cape Coral, FL 33904,
Phone: (239) 542-2121.



If you wish to attend here are the required registration forms and class definitions for your use



2018 B.I.G. Show
Classes.pdf



2018 B.I.G. Show
Registration Informati



2018 B.I.G.
Registration Form Fill.

Upcoming Events: Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance 2018



This year the FAC plans to drive up Thursday with plans to see the exotic car tour in down town Fernandina at lunch. Then Saturday is the Cars & Coffee Event followed Sunday by the Big Boy show and Concours d'Elegance.

While most of us who have seen the Sunday-show will stay from Thursday through Saturday and not attend the Sunday show, if you have never witnessed the Sunday Concours d' Elegance it is an experience not to be missed.

More details will be presented when we get closer. You can read up on the events and auctions being held as well as purchase tickets for Sunday at the following. <https://www.ameliaconcours.org/shop/tickets>



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



Sunday March 25th at the Vinoy in St Petersburg.

<http://festivalofspeed.com/>

Up Coming Events:

March 2018 Events:

Ed Morse Alfa Dealer – Car Show – Brandon – Sat March 3rd

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

B.I.G Show Cape Coral – March 3-4th 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Amelia Island Concours d' Elegance Fernandina Beach March 8th-11th

FAC Business Meeting – Quaker State and Lube, Lunch 11:00AM - March 8th 11:30 AM

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

Festival of Speed – Vinoy Park St Petersburg – Sun March 25th

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – March 31th; 8:00-10:00 AM

April 2018 Events:

Autos for Autism Show – Spring Hill – April 7th

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, April 14th 8-10:00AM

FAC Business Meeting – Carrabba's Grill, April 12th 6:00 PM

Road Tour & Lunch Ozella Trail – April 14th

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, April 21st 7:00-9:00 AM

Cruisin' the Park – John Chastain Park April 21st

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – April 28th ; 8:00-10:00 AM

May 2018 Events:

Drive Away Breast Cancer Car Show - Safety Harbor - May 6th

FAC Business Meeting – Carrabba's Grill, May 10th 6:00 PM

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, May 12th 8-10:00AM

Tampa Bay Auto Museum & Lunch – Sat. May 12th at 10:00AM Delmas

DuPont Cars & Coffee, St. Pete, May 19th 7:00-9:00 AM

SRQ Caffeine & Gasoline Southgate Community Center – May 26th; 8:00-10:00 AM

June 2018 Events:

Sarasota Cars & Coffee, Sunset Motorsport, June 9th 8-10:00AM

Road Trip to Boone NC. June 14th – 16th

FAC Business Meeting – Greene's Farm - Boone NC., June 14th 6:30 PM

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

Restoration Projects: Shops to Avoid at All Costs

If we are going to provide a list of recommended shops for service or restoration that we recommend and that FAC members have used and had a positive experience with, we should also advise our club members of any shop to avoid based on shoddy work or unreliable service or workmanship.

Although there are precious few shops that will work on a vintage Alfa it would take a series of serious events for a shop to warrant such a warning, but this month we are highlighting one such shop.

Avoid using: "Franco's Imported Cars" 12201 66th St., Largo, FL. 33733

When I first asked around for a local shop to rebuild my GTV 2.0L engine and transmission, I was given Franco's name, so I entrusted my engine and transmission to him with instructions to completely rebuild my engine. In subsequent months I in turn recommended his shop to another club member who sent their spider there for an engine rebuild prior to a long trip.

That club member was headed out on a coast to coast trip, but made it only 150 miles when the head gasket Franko installed blew out. He had apparently installed the wrong gasket. Another oil leak required further repair from another shop to stabilize. In my case the issues were not to come to light for a longer period of time because of delays with the restoration process namely rust repair and paint on the chassis.

However, when the engine was installed and cranked for the first time it ran for about 10 seconds before seizing. When the engine was removed from the car and the oil pan removed, the pan still showed evidence of sludge and years-worth of grime. It was also clear that the crank had not been removed and cleaned as all the holes that allow oil to penetrate were clogged with coked up material causing the bottom end of the engine to seize due to oil starvation. All of this from a freshly rebuilt engine done by **Franco's Imports** costing thousands of Dollars.

Grime deposited on the rods.



Crank clogged with old grime and dirt



Restoration Projects: Shops to Avoid at All Costs continued:

More evidence the crank was never cleaned – old grime clogging holes preventing oil movement



Grime all over bushings and the scoring it caused on the rod ends from lack of oil.



All this damage from a “complete engine re-build” done by Franco’s Imports!

Cars for Sale:



For Sale Red Spider

Here is a beautiful low mileage (25K miles) red Spider for sale residing in the Naples area. From the photo's she seems in fantastic condition. The owner is accepting offers but would like to get \$15K.

John H. Mitchell, MD 1-239-596-7998 (H) 2933 Golfside Dr 1-847-977-7988 (C)

Naples, FL. 34110 jhmsrm@aol.com



Cars for Sale continued:



Here is a nice 1986 Spider for sale in a rare gold color!

It's a 1986, 79,194 miles. Good top, no rust or dents, leather has age cracks but no tears. Runs great although it does need a new battery which I'll be replacing this week. \$12,000.00 Jim Bernstein 813-610-9629



Cars for Sale continued:

1981 Alfa Spider Quadrifoglio with 50k miles (less than 100 miles on new engine)

Engine, ignition system, carb conversion, brakes, shocks, exhaust, and more all restored.

Needs paint, tach, and odds n' ends. Runs beautifully! Has hardtop and new soft top. Too many other projects. Asking \$10,000 OBO. Contact: Jake at 617-955-4093 or jakenjones123@gmail.com



Cars for Sale continued:



List your Alfa for sale here. It is free to all club members.



Dealer Notes: The St Pete Maserati/Alfa Dealer has a brand new 2018 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio that just arrived in Silver. If anyone has an interest in seeing it or driving it, please give them a call.

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area:

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



Their address is actually 12295 Automobile Blvd, Suite A2 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 www.profabcustoms.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. 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.

For the best Paint, Full Restoration and Fab shop around visit Tom Argue Design. Where I go for the best.



Top 20 SEMA winner and featured on numerous Car Magazine Covers – Simply the best. Highly Recommended!

Tom Argue Design

5020 110.Ave. North

Clearwater, FL. 33760

info@tomarguedesign.com

www.tomarguedesign.com

PH: 727-573-2233

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area

Exotic Motors South has had a name change to European Exotic Center. They are still located in the same shop and run by the same talented technicians with a much larger storage facility for storing their extensive exotic car collection. They are an Authorized Service Center for Ferrari, Maserati, Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo, BMW and Koenigsegg. They have extensive experience with vintage car mechanicals as well as the most modern of Exotic cars.

Now working in conjunction with Tom Argue Designs for paint and restorations work, the combination is a tour de force – one stop shop for service and restoration of new and vintage sports cars and exotics of all kinds. Don't let the numerous exotic cars there scare you away - their service work is competitively priced and their technical knowledge unsurpassed. Highly recommended.

European Exotic Center

13000 Automobile Blvd.

Clearwater, FL. 33762

PH: 727-254-9723

<http://exoticmotorsouth.com/>



A Visit is worth the trip just for the cars inside!

Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area

Woody's Custom Metal Polishing

One of our club members had some bright work done only to find out that the shop he had taken it to was actually farming the work out to a specialist shop and marking it up. Somehow he found the actual shop that did the work and would like to share that company with our members now.

I am embarrassed to say that Woody's Custom Metal Polishing was right under my nose too just blocks from where we live, and I did not know about it partly because he is located in a very small strip Mall right next to a Pawn shop, so when you drive by all you see if the sign for the Pawn Shop unless you look closely.

One of our club members – Barry Andress – took his bent and dirty Giulia bumper to Woody's and got it back in perfect shape and shiny as new. Barry highly recommends the place for all our bright work needs. Here is a list of items Woody's can polish. He also does Bike parts too.

Intakes
Valves Covers
Bell Housings
Aluminum Blocks
Aluminum Heads
Transmissions
Air Compressors
Alternators
Wheels
Timing Covers
Distributors
Radiators
All types of Stainless Steel and bright work

Here is where to find him and his contact information:

Woody's Custom Metal Polishing
Galen Lamb
1688 Clearwater Largo Road
Clearwater, FL. 33756
PH: 417-655-1242

He is located on the right side of Clearwater – Largo Road when headed south just before the red-light intersection of Ponce de Leon Blvd. If you see the Shell station at the red light you just past his place. Obviously if you are headed north on Clearwater – Largo Road he would be on the left just past the Shell Station at Ponce de Leon Blvd.

Check him out and let us know your experience and results! Several Alfa Club members have already had excellent results at a fair price.

More Recommended Shops of Interests to Vintage Car Owners in the Area

Import Automotive in Palm Harbor.

Did a great job with Wheel Alignment on my Alfa Spider. They provide a graphic as what the set up was before and after they did the adjustment. Their computer has all the factory specs so they know exactly while they are working on it as to needing to be plus or minus. They are located at 1502 alt. 19 Palm Harbor, Fl. 34683 727-784-1959

Dependable Driveshaft, Inc

12284 East Street N

Clearwater, FL. 33762 Phone number is 727-573-9107

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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