

# UNA NOTIZIA

VOLUME 23 , NUMBER 8 THE ALFA ROMEO OWNERS CLUB OF OKLAHOMA OCT.-DEC.2009

## A Year to Remember

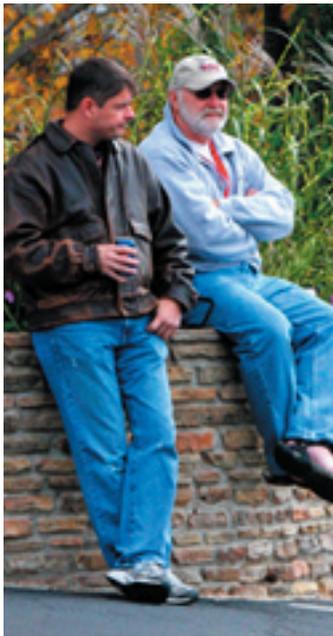
**W**hether 2009 was a year you'd rather forget or one of accomplishments and celebrations, for Oklahoma Alfisti, it was a fun-filled year. Romeo and Giulietta, Hare and House, the wine tour, assuming responsibility for Fall Fling kept us busy and entertained all year. Now it's time to plan for the next Alfa year.

James and Julie Perlingiere will host a chili supper and calendar planning for 2010 at their home, 8110 N 170 E Ave, Owasso, Jan. 23, beginning at 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Autumn Perlingiere (kuhawk4life@hotmail.com) to let them know you're coming. And if you have ideas for interesting and fun activities, but can't be at the meeting, send your suggestions to David Simmons (simmons5@cimtel.net) or to Autumn.

Joan Neidell and Eileen Simmons will host a baby shower and brunch in honor of the February arrival of the first member of third generation of Oklahoma Alfisti: Autumn and Jamie Perlingiere's daughter Madison Ann. Maddie is scheduled to arrive in late February. To RSVP for this Jan. 31 event, email Joan at jretired@sbcglobal.com.

As we look forward to 2010, let me say a huge "thanks" to all the writers and photographers who contributed to *Una Notizia* this year. I truly am the envy of other Alfa Club newsletter editors who want to know how I get such talented writers. Ask, I tell them. And, as many of you know, ask. . . , ask. . . ask. . .

Enjoy your look back at the last three months of 2009 and know that this snow will melt, the cold will turn to warmth and you and your Alfa will be back out on the road in a few short months—or maybe weeks!



Eric Murer and Hogan Leichty watch the Sunday morning autocross during Fall Fling October 24-26. (Photo by Ignacio Salas-Humara)

### Events

#### JANUARY

23 Chili Supper and 2010 Calendar Planning. 6:00 p.m. James and Julie Perlingiere, 8110 N 170 E Ave, Owasso

31 Shower and Brunch for Autumn and Jamie Perlingiere. 11:00 a.m. Joan and Les Neidell, 5526 E 65 Place, Tulsa.

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Seven of the ten Alfas that caravanned from Tulsa to Eureka Springs line up at a stop sign in Missouri. (Photo by Ignacio Salas-Humara)

## Member News

**W**elcome to new members *Anthony Nigro*, 2012 W

Toledo Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012; 918-258-2148; anigro@cox.net. Anthony owns a 1991 white Spider Veloce. *Katia and Randy Vissers*, 13158 Red Oak Drive, Choctaw OK 73020; 405-259-8113; rvissers@telusplanet.net. The Vissers own a 1979 Spider, a 1987 Spider Veloce project. When they lived in Brazil, they owned a 1996 155 TS 2.0 liter. Randy is a transplant from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and joins two other such transplants: the Garossinos and the Alisons as AROCOK members and friends.

## Thank You!

**F**all Fling was a fantastic success, thanks to the hard work of many Alfisti. Thank you to: *Autumn Perlingiere*, our indefatigable social director who volunteered to coordinate door prizes. She managed to round up some fantastic prizes. . so a huge thank you to everyone who contributed. *Les and Joan Neidell* handled registration, which included putting together the registration packets, welcoming attendees and answering many questions. *Alan and Claudia Oswalt* hosted the hospitality room, no small feat when you consider that you share space with Alfisti at all times of the night and day and pro-

vide them with food and drink. Thanks to *Jeff Lang*, an Oklahoma member from Arkansas for coordinating the concours and to another Arkansan Oklahoma member, *Robert Bumpas* for serving as rally photographer. *Team Perlingiere* did their usual outstanding job of setting up and timing the autocross. *Phyllis and Bruce Tilden* made another set of beautiful trophies. Finally, David and I have to thank our friends *Dennis and Linda Heter* for hosting us on our setting up the rally trips and for giving us ideas for some new and interesting stops along the way.

## News from National

### AROC BOD NOMINATIONS

**N**ominations are being accepted for the AROC Board of Directors. A chapter can nominate a person or any member can be nominated by 15 or more AROC members by petition. The nominee will need to submit a biography of 250 words or less for publication in the *Alfa Owner*. The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2010 at midnight, CST. If you're interested, let David Simmons know. He has the nomination form. Les Neidell, who currently serves on the BOD, is not running for re-election

### MOTEL 6 PARTNERSHIP

**A**ROC BOD Secretary John Justus announced that a partnership between AROC and Motel 6 has been approved. The agreement gives AROC members a 10% discount on room rates. A button on the AROC-USA website links directly to Motel 6 reservations.

### 2009 MINUTES

**A**cd with the minutes of the 2009 AROC Board of Directors meeting has arrived and is available for member persual. It will be at the January 23 meeting if anyone is interested in the proceedings. The minutes will not be available on the national website and the BoD has asked local chapters not to post the minutes on their websites.

## AROCOK Elections

**J**anuary is our election month. Nominations for officers and Board of Director members will be taken at the January 23 meeting.

If you're interested in serving as an officer or director, please let David Simmons know. If you're currently in one of those positions and aren't interested in continuing, please let him know that, too.

## Dual (or more) membership

**D**uring Fall Fling, several members inquired about membership in more than one AROC chapter. The process is simple: add \$10 to your annual dues for each additional chapter you'd like to belong to. it.

## Calendar Planning

**P**lanning the 2010 Alfa Calendar is the major focus of the business meeting January 23 at the home of James and Julie Perlingiere.

Think of activities you'd like the Club to do and suggest them at the meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, email your ideas to David Simmons at [simmons5@cimtel.net](mailto:simmons5@cimtel.net) or to Autumn Perlingiere at [kuhawk4life@hotmail.com](mailto:kuhawk4life@hotmail.com)

Some new ideas have been proposed:

- Chicken dinner in Olpe, Kansas, followed by a play in a restored theatre in Emporia, KS. (This would be an overnight

trip.)

- Pizza from the woodfired oven at Stableridge Winery in Stroud.

- Lunch at the rebuilt Rock Cafe on Route 66 in Stroud.

- Murder mystery at Molly's Landing restaurant near Catoosa or Whispering Vines winery next to JRP, where we have our go-kart races.

- Brazilian dinner, catered by Katia Visser.

- A celebration of a century of Alfa Romeo.

## A Ghost in the Alfa

*Sophia Loren, no less*

... And his dead mother (Sophia Loren) has a habit of popping up in the passenger seat of his powder-blue Alfa Romeo Giulietta offering advice or, literally, nostalgia, the ache of memory. Review of a movie *Nine*. <http://www.bloomberg.com/> Dec. 19, 2009

## ItalianCarFest , Grapevine, 2009

Robert Bumpas attended ItalianCarFest in Grapevine, TX in September and sent these photos of a rainy event.

ItalianCarFest, 2010 is scheduled for September 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Nash Farm near Grapevine.

Even in the rain, Alfas are beautiful cars.



A 166 parked on the street.



A close up of the 166's logo.



The rain pours down as spectators attempt to stay dry in a building festooned with Italian flags.

# It's Not the Destination—It's the Journey

by David Hyman

Oh, Lord, please let my heater work. That was my first thought when I opened the garage door for the Alfa drive to Eureka Springs, Ark., on the only frigid morning of an Oklahoma Autumn that had made global warmers beam with self-satisfaction. This drive was going to be huge – drivers from Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Kansas, Texas, Missouri, Michigan and, for all I knew, Milan, Rome and Turin for the 26<sup>th</sup> Alfa Fall Fling. No top-down today, at least until the sun burned off the gray on this Friday, October 23.

Most of the traveling Alfisti were to form up in one of a couple of armada. The first was to gather early that morning at the Quik Trip east of Tulsa across the highway from the Tulsa Hard Rock Resort, Casino, Golf Course, Hotel and 24-hour Bar and Buffet (correct me if I'm wrong – never been there). The absolutely firm directive was to be there at nine thirty sharp for an immediate takeoff, for this was the advance team carrying all the banners, snacks and drinks to the



Alan Oswalt, Jamie Perlingiere and David Hyman admire the engine of Ignacio Salas-Humara's Giulietta Sprint in the Quik Trip parking lot before departing for Eureka Springs, Oct. 23. Ignacio enjoys some Quik Trip pastry while his car is being admired.

hotel in Eureka Springs, and it had to there to set up everything for the rest of the Alfisti arriving later in the day.

Oh, how long do you have to own an Alfa until you learn that Italianate time and deadlines are advisory – just like yellow stripes to Keith Kelly? Naturally, therefore, we milled around the

Quik Trip lot for what seemed an arctic winter, drinking hot coffee, stamping our feet, eating donuts, studying one another's valve covers and explaining to the gawkers that they are Alfa Romeos and that they don't import them any longer. All the while straggling Alfisti straggled in and made ready for the jaunt.

OK, ten-thirty and we are at last off on our way eastward in a caravan with David and Eileen Simmons in the lead, Alan Oswalt in his Alfetta next, then me in my '91 Spider, followed by Claudia Oswalt in her 164. Behind that were Jamie and Autumn Perlingiere, Les and Joan Neidell, Russ and Peggy Neely, Karl and Rosie Schmid, Jim Fisher and Alan and Cindy Perlingiere, driving the only non-Alfa in the group.

We started out on the direct route to Eureka Springs, a 150 mile cruise due east from Tulsa, just as my GPS was saying we should. But it wasn't fifteen minutes later that Leader David Simmons veered onto a paved goat trail into the Ozark foothills and the GPS began insisting I "make a legal u-turn." Getting rid of the GPS, I knew that this trip wasn't so much to get us to Eureka Springs as it was to "be going" to Eureka Springs, and Leader David does seem to know how to find the zen in a road trip. But what mystified was how he was actually able to find Eureka Springs with all the zen'ish zags he found along the way.

However he did it, though, this was about to be the most fun I had ever had in a car. Really. The Most. No, Really. Even better than the Talimena Drive trip last year; and I thought that was the most fun I had had in a car. There is absolutely nothing like driving a car well designed for hills and curves.

So, up, up into the hills of eastern Oklahoma we drove, the switchbacks and hairpins coming more often with the miles. Past lakes, over rises and through fiery-colored woods, past Spavinaw dam and lake – Tulsa's water source – and then over into Arkansas for a moment – just a

*OH, HOW LONG DO YOU HAVE TO OWN AN ALFA UNTIL YOU LEARN THAT ITALIANATE TIME AND DEADLINES ARE ADVISORY – JUST LIKE YELLOW STRIPES TO KEITH KELLY?*

we were careening northeastward. Simple answer: there were more hills and hairpins in Missouri. And since someplace up in Missouri there was bound to be another road that would wind us back down to Eureka Springs, why not?

By mid-day we'd been flying for a couple of hours and it was beginning to warm up; so I turned off the heat and cracked the windows – still not top-down'able, though. The entire way I had been behind Alan Oswald and ahead of Claudia Oswald, going faster and faster around the curves and over the humps and through the straights.

It is a very peculiar experience driving in the slot between Mr. and Mrs. Oswald. It made me feel like an uninvited guest at their dinner out. Claudia was driving her 164, which, for all the world, looked to me like Alfa's drive-the-kids-to-soccer-and-go-to-the-grocery model. And, in fact, her back seat was stacked full of groceries and Alfa convention supplies for the weekend.

So, I naively assumed she was on the drive



Claudia and Alan Oswald and the "mom-mobile" pose for the rally picture on Saturday. (Photo by Robert Bumpas)

just to look at the leaves and the wildlife. Not a chance. All the way, while I was pushing my Spider to stay up with the Leader, if I let off the gas for a moment, Claudia and her mom-mobile 164 were going to leave tire tracks on my trunk lid.

So, there I was driving as hard as I dared to stay ahead of Claudia with Alan and his Alfetta setting the pace right ahead of me. Yet, someplace around East Overshoe, Missouri, in a particularly fun piece of hill driving, I started to smell gasoline.

Oh, great. I had just replaced one of my fuel pumps and I assumed I hadn't tightened something important somewhere and was about to explode or conk to a stop and be crushed between the Oswalds.

But then I began to see a pattern to the odor. It came in bursts, each one a few moments after Alan's Alfetta would hang a tight right turn. And then I saw it: a Alan veered right, a pint of gasoline poured out thse back of his car onto the road, and I caught the odor of it a moment later as I drove over the slosh spot.

There I am, getting light headed from Mr. Oswald and in mortal fear of being run over by Mrs. Oswald. Fortunately, we hit Noel, Missouri a few minutes later for a brief stop. Warning given to Alan ("No big deal. I'll fix it in Eureka.") and new slot in the lineup grabbed ("Impressive

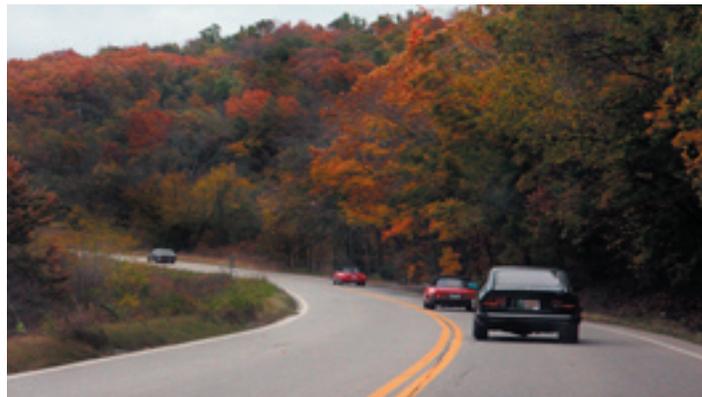


A gas tank fix in Noel, but not on Alan Oswald's Alfetta. David Simmons assists Karl Schmid in locating a leak in his Spider's gas tank.

*IT IS A VERY PECULIAR EXPERIENCE DRIVING IN THE SLOT BETWEEN MR. AND MRS. OSWALT. IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE AN UNINVITED GUEST AT THEIR DINNER OUT.*

Springs. It was past lunchtime when we began to see footprints of tourism, signs for craft shops, restaurants and hotels.

We rolled into Eureka Springs and found the Fall Fling hotel just where it was supposed to be; Leader David really did know where he was going. Unfortunately, I was unable to stick around for the weekend; I had to drive on to Kansas City to meet my family for “command performance” event. So, after some really good barbeque with fellow Alfisti in Eureka Springs, I pulled out the GPS, stuck it back onto the windshield and headed North back into Missouri, passing the afternoon armada that was just arriving.



Gorgeous fall foliage, beautiful Alfas, curvy road—all combined to make the trip from Tulsa to Eureka Springs the most fun you can have in a car. (Photo by Ignacio Salas-Humara)

## Eureka!

### *Fall Fling 26*

**G**etting there was just the beginning of a weekend of Alfa Fun.

#### FRIDAY

Almost as soon as we arrived at the Inn of the Ozarks, David and I headed out to run the rally one more time to check for any errors that had to be corrected or any signs that had moved. Back at the hotel, Alan and Claudia Oswalt went shopping for snacks and drinks for the hospitality room and got it all set up. Les Neidell handled registration as participants arrived. David and I returned to the hotel to find a hospitality room full of Alfisti and joined the fun of reconnecting with long-time friends and meeting new ones.

Friday night is an on your own event and several of us went to our favorite Eureka Springs Italian restaurant, Ermilio's. After eating great quantities of roasted garlic and delicious food, we returned to Inn of the Ozarks and more hospitality room conversations.

#### SATURDAY

Friday had been cloudy and cold, not that anyone on the trip to Eureka Springs had time to notice, but Saturday morning dawned bright and clear—a perfect day for the Fall Fling rally.

The rally was planned as an all-day event. Rally master David Simmons convened the drivers meeting at 9:00 a.m., handed out the 100-question rally, gave instructions and told the participants



Still in the Quik-Trip parking lot waiting to caravan to Eureka Springs, Karl Schmid lends a helping hand to a Damsel in Distress while Alan Perlingiere talks to the Damsel.

to leave at their leisure and turn the rally questions in no later than 5:00 p.m.

It was a very strange feeling not to be participating in the rally. The day stretched out before us. We decided to walk to downtown Eureka Springs, do some shopping and have lunch before returning to the hotel. We returned to the hotel about 3:00, returned to the hospitality room, expecting to find a pile of rally forms to be

checked. Hmmm. Maybe this rally was taking longer than the rallymasters expected. Soon, however, the forms began coming in, carried by rally participants with various facial and verbal expressions. The hospitality room filled with Alfisti sharing rally stories, snacks and drinks before returning to their rooms to get ready for the evening's banquet.

Saturday night's banquet was another Alfa gabfest, followed by outstanding door prizes collected by Autumn Perlingiere. After the banquet, it was back to the hospitality room to wind down Saturday and look forward to Sunday.

### SUNDAY

Saturday's beautiful weather didn't hold for Sunday. The morning dawned gray and rainy. But threatening weather couldn't keep intrepid Alfisti from running the Perlingiere-designed parking lot autocross. After all, during the 26-year history of Fall Fling, the autocross has been run in the snow at least once!

So, the Perlingiere crew directed the set up and tested the course, the participants walked it, spectators found good viewing and photography spots and the Sunday morning fun began.

The most dramatic moment came when Ignacio Salas-Humara's Spring began smoking and had to be pushed off the course. But if you're going to have Alfa problems, there's no better time



Ralliers gather around rallymaster David Simmons for instructions Saturday morning. The rally was an all-day event with 100 questions. (Photo by Ignacio Salas-Humara)



Keith Kelly, owner of the Volvo Romeo, and his navigator Jeff Lang, pose for the rally photo at War Eagle Mill. (Photo by Robert Bumpas)



David Simmons, Darreld Ellis, John Fitzgerald, Eric Murer, Jeff Land, Jamie Perlingiere and Alan Oswalt walk the autocross course prior to the event.



Smoke comes from Ignatio Salas-Humara's Sprint as James Perlingiere, Jamie Perlingiere, Glenn Beckerdite and Karl Schmid push it off the autocross course. Keith Kelly follows.

Ignacio smiles as it becomes evident that nothing serious is wrong with his Sprint. Alfa fixers check it one more time: Karl Schmid, David Simmons, Keith Kelly.

and place than when you're surrounded by Alfa experts. The problem was minor, soon fixed and Ignacio was back on the course for more runs.

The final event of Fall Fling is the awards brunch where trophies are handed out. Winners were:

#### RALLY

- First: Phyllis and Bruce Tilden
- Second: Keith Kelly and Jeff Lang
- Third: Glenn Beckerdite and John Fitzgerald

#### AUTOCROSS

- First: James Perlingiere
- Second: Jamie Perlingiere
- Third: Doug Harris

*All three drove the same car: the Perlingiere Spider*

#### CONCOURS

- First: Ignacio Salas-Humera, 1960 Sprint
- Second: Karl Schmid, 1978 Spider
- Third: Ralph Coldewe, 1958 Giulietta Spider

#### QUADRIFOGLIO

*Awarded to the person who participated in all events, but didn't place in any.*

- Claudia Oswalt

After the awards brunch, it was time to say good-bye for another year. Fall Fling 2010 is scheduled for Oct. 22-24. See you there!



Larry Johnston, Rosie Schmid and Susan Johnston have a great view of the autocross.

## East meets West: Oklahoma Alfisti meet at POPS

by Russ Neely

**P**ops ([www.pops66.com](http://www.pops66.com)) gas and soda pop station was built west of Arcadia Oklahoma by Aubrey McClendon.

Arcadia is , probably most famous for the round barn, a well known land mark on Route 66. Now Pops joins as a very modern Route 66 land mark.

Aubrey McClendon is founder of Chesapeake Oil and Gas. He has purchased a lot of land around Arcadia, including the plant nursery immediately to the south of Pops. He is reputed to have purchased the Arcadia BBQ restaurant just so he could close it and reduce the competition for Pops.

Pops is a very modern design. The cover over the gas pumps is cantilevered from the building itself. It is a futuristic vision rising from the pastoral Arcadian valley itself, with a native Oklahoma red rock base and steel trusses like giant tree branches.

The huge canopy cantilevers, unsupported, 100 feet to shelter vehicles and their occupants from sun, rain and snow. So big, it creates an "outdoor room," it's an unexpected sensation we bet you've never experienced -- with wildflowers and trees all around you.

Ultramodern fuel pumps and other cutting-edge amenities distinguish POPS from any other gas station on earth. At the pumps, get an eyeful of windows artfully lined with POPS' rainbow of sodas. Glass shelves showcase the thousands of bottles, floor-to-ceiling. Each shelf holds a single color / flavor of pop. It is very colorful.

Out in front is a stylized pop bottle with a soda straw. This sculptural take on a soda bottle and straw soars 66 ft. into the sky and weighs over 4 tons. Like a rocket ship from another realm, it's THE must-see Route 66 landmark, standing next to the space station with which it arrived.

Each night as the sun sets on Arcadia, LED lights transform it into a dazzling light show. At night, it rotates through several different colors.

On November 14, 2009, the Oklahoma Alfa Club met at Pops. When Peg and I arrived, there was a Lamborghini parked out front. I thought at first that it was a kit car as it had a meat ball on each door with the number 88 in the middle. Turns



Randy Vissers, Russ Neely, David Simmons and Jamie Perlingiere visit in the parking lot of POPS Nov. 14.

out the valve cover on the mid-engine and the brake rotors said Lamborghini. I don't know why the owner screwed it up with the racing meat balls.

The parking at Pops is east of the gas pumps behind a row of bushes. Not the best for showing off your car. A few people, like the Lambo, parked out front of the gas pumps. Not all the cars on show in that area were worth looking at. But an Austin Martin left that area as we were walking to the store.

In walking around the parking lot later, there was a dark blue 1932 Ford coupe with no fenders, hair pin radius rods and a Chevy V-8 visible through the louvers on the sides of the full hood. There was a 34 Ford sedan hot rod. It had fiberglass fenders and may have been entirely fiberglass. There were lots of motorcycles and other cars, some interesting, some mundane.

Those who joined us at Pops, more or less in the order they arrived are:

- Oklahoma City Alfa Mechanic Cliff Whisler in his Pickup.
- Graydon Gerow and his wife from Tulsa in the Red 78 Alfetta GT they bought new.
- New club members Randy and Katia Vissers in their 79 Red Spider. Randy also has a non-running 87 Spider.
- Eric Chaverri in his Brown 78 Spider .
- John DiMaggio in his Red 76 Spider with hardtop.

• Russ and Peg Neely in their Silver 87 Milano Platinum.

Most of the group from Tulsa arrived later than the Oklahoma City Alfas.

• Les and Joan Neidell in their new to them Black 88 Milano Gold Automatic.

• Jamie and Autumn Perlingiere in their Gray 78 Alfetta Sedan

• Anthony and Merrill Nigro drove their recently acquired white 91 Spider.

• Considerably later David and Eileen Simmons arrived in their red 74 GTV.

Pops was rather crowded in spite of the chilly weather. We had to eat in two shifts as a result.

I had a very good Chicken melt sandwich and cherry cobbler with ice cream. Peg said her hamburger was not all that great. The food at Pops seems to vary in quality. That may be due to too many teen age workers on weekends.

After the first shift finished eating, a number of the motorcycles left. We were able to move all our Alfas and put them in one row for photos.

So the rest of our visit was spent bench racing, looking and each other's Alfas and taking photos.

Before we left, a beautiful dark metallic blue DeTomaso Pantera arrived. I have always wanted a Pantera since they were imported and sold at Lincoln Mercury dealers from about 1970 through 1975. The Pantera had a Ford 351 Cleveland engine mounted behind the seats. Like many or most Panteras, this one had the package trays around the engine removed so we could see the engine and transaxle. It had stainless steel hoses, polished aluminum and modified suspension. We all visited with the owner and his son and he and the son inspected all our Alfas. We were all driving Italian cars, after all.

We left mid-afternoon. Jamie and Autumn Perlingier and Randy and Katia Vissers followed Peg and me home. We scrounged around my parts cars and both took some free parts home, but not enough parts to really help reduce the clutter of parts at my house.



Erick Chaverri shows his Spider to the Pantera owner and his son. (Photo by Anthony Nigro)



Five Spiders and a Milano surround three Alfisti in the parking lot conversation at POPS. (Photo by Katia Visser)



Anthony and Merrill Nigro's white Spider took them on their first Club activity. (Photo by Anthony Nigro)



Cliff Whistler stands next to John DiMaggio's 1976 Spider. (Photo by Anthony Nigro)

It's not an Alfa, but it is Italian.

This beautiful Pantera caught the eye of Alfisti in the POPS parking lot and a conversation with the owner followed. (Photo by Katia Visser)



The Nigro's Spider is parked next to Garydon Gerow's 1978 Spider, which he and his wife bought new. (Photo by Anthony Nigro)



The Neidell's Milano sits next to Jamie and Autumn Perlingiere's 1978 Alfetta Sedan, known affectionately as the Snort Sedan. (Photo by Anthony Nigro).

## Alfa Romeo 147 Dives Deep With Oceanic Ad Campaign

Published Dec 30, 2009 <http://www.insideline.com/alfa-romeo/>

MILAN, Italy — A Belgian Alfa Romeo advertisement is going to new heights — or should we say depths — in spectacle. A documentary video it has released on the Internet claims to show a billboard for the 147 being dropped to the floor of the ocean, seven miles down in the Mariana Trench, near the island of Guam. The spot is claimed to be the lowest point on earth, and the hook is that the 147 has a low, low price of €14,995 (the equivalent of \$21,500).

A documentary-style video tells the story of how Alfa Romeo Belgium hired a veteran boat captain from Guam to take the billboard down under the ocean, and it's filmed reality-TV style. The enterprise is rife with complications such as how to make the billboard resistant to high water pressure. For those who wonder, it's done by making the billboard out of aluminum, with the poster itself printed on plastic, and drilling holes in it. "We can't go any lower," reads the ad text.

The highlight is probably the "nerve-racking 11-hour descent," accompanied by suitably scary music.

*Its a hoax of course, but in addition to promoting the low price of the Alfa 147, it is bringing some worldwide recognition to Guam and the trench which lies off the island's east coast. [www.pacificnewscenter.com](http://www.pacificnewscenter.com).*

## Holiday Celebration: Cold night, Warm friends

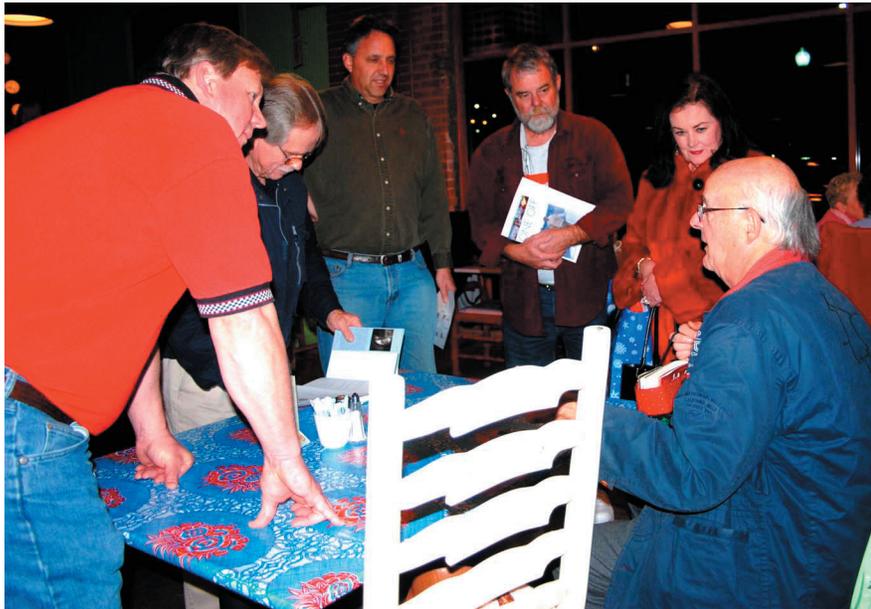
The night was cold December 5, but the atmosphere and friendship inside Dilly Deli in downtown Tulsa was warm.

The restaurant has an outside bocce court, which was one of the main attractions for a group of Italian car owners and a few hardy souls did venture outside for some rounds of bocce.

Inside there was good food, drink, conversation and a Dirty Santa gift exchange, organized by Autumn Perlingiere. All of these added up to having a wonderful time at the last official Club activity in 2009, celebrating an Alfa year and looking forward to another one.



Scott Fowler, Trent Fowler and Mercedes Millberry visit with Les Neidell during the 2009 Holiday Party.



The author of *One Off* autographs his book: Toly Arutunoff and his fans: Keith Kelly, Karl Schmid, Randy Visser, Russ Neely and Karen Arutunoff.

David Hyman and Dean Mandelbaum get caught up on Things Alfa.



Katia and Randy Visser and Jonathan Hyman check out the Dirty Santa action.

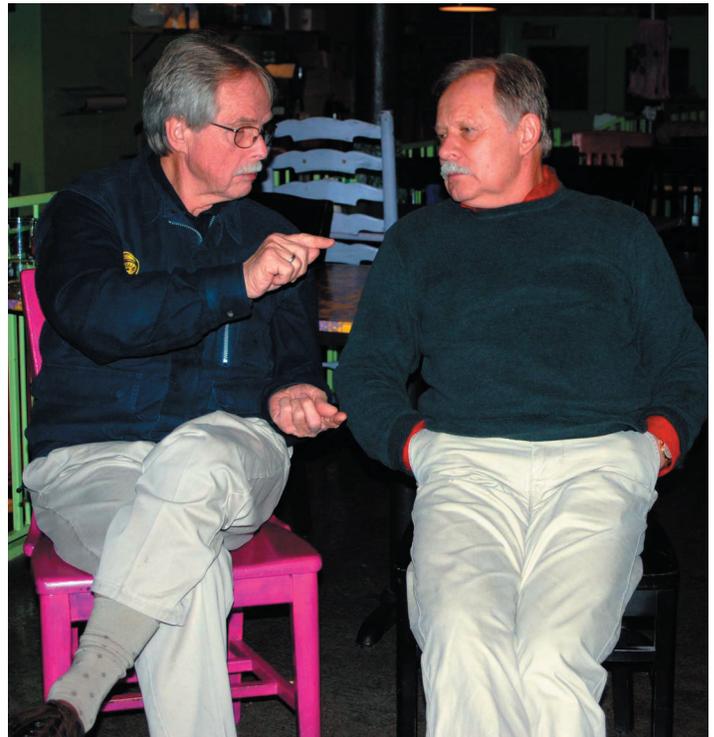
Dani Perlingiere displays her Dirty Santa gift, a Santa Claus figurine.



David Simmons inspects a set of wrenches. He didn't get to keep them, but he did get to keep the set of lavender soap bars.



Claudia and Alan Oswalt have a husband and wife chat near the gift table.



Did they call each other before the party to check wardrobes? Karl Schmid and Steve Kernyansky are deep in conversation.



Eileen and David Simmons get caught up on OKC news from Peg Neely. (Photo by Katia Visser)



Toly Arutunoff and Katia Visser pose for an author-fan photo. (Photo by Randy Visser)



The Owasso contingent: James Perlingiere, Steve and Robin Kernyansky visit during the Holiday Party.



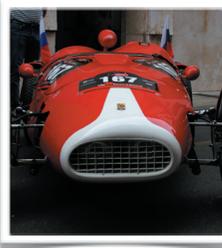
Karl Schmid and Russ Neely listen to an amusing anecdote from Karen Arutunoff.

Alfa Romeo has released fresh images of the Giulietta ahead of its world debut at the 2010 Geneva Motor Show. Earlier this month we posted up three pics of a white example of Alfa's 147 replacement; you can now see the car in red (a more appropriate colour for an Alfa, I think) and a view of the interior, which features some exquisite detailing for what's essentially a mainstream Golf-class hatchback.

The Italians have an effortless sense of style that seems to come with their genes – Alfa Romeos (in general) are not only a treat to the eyes, but have really sweet engines as well, which adds to the allure.



<http://paultan.org/2009/12/24/>



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 custom trip designed  
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## BRESCIA & THE MILLE MIGLIA

April 30 - May 7, 2010

To experience the Mille Miglia (called the most beautiful race in the world) is to understand the essence of Italy and the Italian people. Beautiful automobiles, spectacular scenery, fabulous food and wine and an incredible sense of camaraderie - all this will be yours when you join us on this unique 8-day adventure of a lifetime. Discover one of the lesser known yet most intriguing regions of Italy. The province of Brescia boasts magnificent lakes, rolling vineyards that produce Franciacorta wine (Italy's answer to Champagne), beautiful undiscovered cities and an overall embodiment of *la dolce vita*.

When you travel with Live It!, your experience will be unlike any other. Our groups are limited to no more than 10 people. With a group this small you can eat where the locals eat, have access to sites and places unavailable to large tour groups all while being treated to the luxury of having all the little details taken care of for you. In addition you will benefit from the expertise of a group leader who will be your personal guide throughout the trip - her 15 + years of experience in Italy is invaluable. Join us!

### For more information contact:

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 ashley@liveit-italy.com  
 860-729-1185  
 www.liveit-italy.com

### Trip Highlights

- VIP access at the Mille Miglia
- Day trip to Verona
- Full day guided visit of Lake Garda
- Private vineyard tour in Franciacorta
- Tour of the Alfa Romeo museum
- Four star hotel on Lake Garda
- much more.....

## Links you might like:

- Phyllis Tilden's Fall Fling photos: <http://share.shutterfly.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=c8cc8f0867e1721e&sid=0QbNG7ds0aMWG6>
- Janet Hirsch's Fall Fling photos: <http://picasaweb.google.com/jhirsch.photos/Fall-Fling2009#>
- Anthony Nigro's POPS photos: [http://www1.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=1640720017/a=138282140\\_12107958/](http://www1.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=1640720017/a=138282140_12107958/)

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your Alfa(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$65.00/year, renewable on anniversary. Send check and application form to June Mustari, 4128 E. 37th Place, Tulsa, OK 74135.

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