



# *i Saluti*

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**Note Bene**

by Phil Dean, Pres

**Testosterone Poisoning  
(aka Macho Men)**

Thanks for the club members who gave me moral support with my last, unexpected work crisis. I am moving my work to a different hospital after 17 yrs, to a hospital with a female Chief of Staff. On my day of changing jobs it was so pleasant to talk to an emotionally intact, woman (Medical) CEO as opposed to the usual male (MD) view of every conversation tinged with the concept of "What I have is MINE, what you have is NEGOTIABLE".

So, "Life is a balance", "work isn't everything" is important to recall during waning months of Winter, official end of Winter begins with President's Day Drive 2-20-2005 beginning at I-40 and Hiway 94 Commuter parking lot. Hopefully the rains will end by then and no "snow out" like we had one year.

Like the book entitled, "555 Ways to Put More FUN in your Life", by Bob Basso, PhD, we should begin Spring with hint #107.."Come up with a new philosophy of life every day, and Attach it to the dashboard of your Car."

I like suggestion #1 (especially

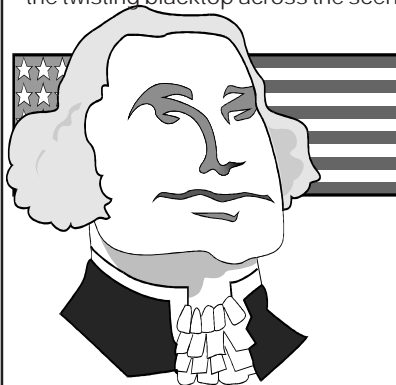
*continues on page 9*

*Next Event . . .*

**Presidents' Day Drive**

**12:15 pm Sunday Feb 20 (note time change!)**

There's no question that among our best-attended events each year is our midwinter open road romp honoring Presidents' Day weekend. This year it will take the twisting blacktop across the scenic hills and valleys of the Missouri River to the Augusta Brewery Restaurant in Augusta Missouri where we'll dine. We'll arrive there for lunch around 1:30 pm.



**Don't Miss Out!**

To be part of the low-speed, high-revving fun, meet us Sunday, February 20 at the commuter parking lot on the outer road just east of Hwy. 94 at Hwy. 40 (Weldon Springs exit) at 12:15 pm. And don't let a cantankerous, nonstarting Alfa keep you on the sidelines. Anything that drives is OK. Heck, in the past we've had a BMW and a Triumph TR6 that added

considerable to the sporting nature of the event. Be there, no excuses!

*Coming in March*

**Easter Car Show**

**11 am - 4:30 pm, Sunday March 27  
 Muny Upper Parking Lot, Forest Park  
 To Show Car Contact Rich Hirsch by Mar 16**

Again this year the club will participate in the annual Easter Car Show in Forest Park to promote the club and just have a good time. This extremely popular show has been held every year since 1961 and most of you have probably attended it. **More info on page 7.**

*Coming in April . . .*

**Alfa Swap Meet/Model Car Display  
 3 pm, Saturday April 2**

Steve and Sherri Coldewe's, Imperial MO

**RSVP (636) 464-4019, [alfa57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alfa57@sbcglobal.net)**

What do you need for your car . . . and what do you have that someone else needs . . . grill piece, a special tool, wheels, books, manuals, magazines, literature, thermostatic actuator, headlight cover? Well, this is your opportunity to sell your spares and pick up some goodies for your special car. So come to the flea market and be prepared to buy, sell, or swap car parts, tools, literature, and other goodies. **More info on page 7.**

*i Saluti* is the official publication of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club of St Louis (AROCSL). Articles, photos, and classified ads should be sent to newsletter Editor. Classified Alfa-related ads are free to members. Please inquire for commercial rates.

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## 2005 Calendar

Feb 20 (Sunday)	Presidents' Day Drive, 12:15 pm
Mar 27 (Sunday)	Easter Car Show (info on p. 7)
Apr 2 (Saturday)	Swap Meet (Steve and Sherri Coldewe) (info on p. 7)
Apr 29 - May 1	Spring Fling, Washington MO
Jun 5 (Sunday)	European Car Show (Rich Hirsch)
Jun 24 - 26	FIAT Freak Out, Lake of the Ozarks

#### **Note: Quincy trip postponed to 2006!**

Jul 23 (Saturday)	Day at the Lake (Rich and Janet Hirsch)
Aug/Sep	Hatcher's Picnic/Jon & Nancy's Soiree
Sep 17 (Saturday)	Greentree Festival Car Show (Harden Ervin)
Sep 24 (Saturday)	Hermann Tour (Chuck and Sally Workman)
Oct 2 (Sunday)	Tech Day at Volpe's Shop
Oct 9 (Sunday)	Columbus Day Parade (Norma U.)
Oct 28 - 30	Eureka Springs AR (Kansas City AROC)
Nov 5 (Saturday)	Planning Meeting (Ralph and Jane C.)
Dec 11 (Sunday)	Christmas Party (Mike and Sue H.)

### 2005 Quincy IL Trip

Due to the enthusiasm for the FIAT Freak Out, the Quincy trip is being postponed to 2006. If you made hotel reservations you should cancel them as soon as possible.

-- John Ryman  
(217) 323-2046  
ryman@casscomm.com



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## 2006 Alfa Romeo Brera Preview — Wanting What You Can't Have

by Justin Couture

The car pictured here is not a concept vehicle. It's a real production car - no joke. Rub your eyes, pinch yourself or take your pulse, but the fact is that this gorgeous machine is the all-new 2006 Alfa Romeo Brera, the replacement to the venerable GTV and Spyder of the '90s. This is the vehicle that Alfa is banking on to renew the company's image of building elegant, sophisticated and desirable machines.

If the Brera name or the vehicle's design look familiar, that's because it's the production version of the Brera Concept car that made its worldwide debut just three short years ago. The 2+2 coupe will be positioned higher upmarket than the current GTV, aiming to gun down the likes of the upcoming Porsche Boxster Coupe, BMW 3-Series Coupe and the next-generation Audi TT Coupe.

For those of you who are already acquainted with the Brera concept, you'll find that the production version has a lot in common when it comes to their exteriors. The two seem nearly identical from a distance, sharing similar profiles as well as many distinctive styling cues, including the steely-eyed, inset, triple-beam headlamps, jutting nose, tapered hood and pentagonal rear window.

From concept to production, the Brera has grown in length and height. It's now 4,414 mm (173.8 in.) long, 1,830 mm (72.1 in.) wide and 1,372 mm (54.0 in.) high, as opposed to the show car, which measures 4,390 mm (172.8 in.) long, 1,890 mm (74.4 in.) wide and 1,290 mm (50.8 in.) tall. While entry and exit won't be done through scissor-type doors, the Brera does keep the fixed panoramic glass roof of the concept.

Though photos have yet to be released of the Brera's cockpit, Alfa boasts, "the interior has an ambience that is both cozy and sophisticated," through the use of high quality materials and novel designs. If current Alfa products and the Brera concept are any indication, the production version should rank amongst the best for build, as well as delivering a rich, luxurious feel that nothing this side of a Maserati could match.



The Brera will be built with three different engines, including powerplants from the company's own engine bank, as well as drawing from the extensive GM-Fiat engine range. Unfortunately, the concept's Ferrari/Maserati-derived V8 powerplant won't be on the list, and neither will the Selespeed sequential manual gearbox.

Entry-level vehicles will feature a GM-derived 2.2-litre, 185-horsepower inline-four with JTS (Alfa-speak for direct-injection). Buyers can also select a more powerful 260-horsepower, 3.2-litre V6 developed by Fiat and General Motors. This motor is a part of GM's modular V6 family, and shares some of its components with the larger 3.6-litre unit found in the Cadillac CTS and the Saturn Aura concept.

As with the GT Coupe, Alfa also intends to offer a turbo diesel powerplant for the Brera. As a general rule of thumb, it's been thought that sports cars and diesels aren't to be mixed, but many automobile manufacturers including Mercedes-Benz and BMW have utilized diesels in

their sports cars. The concept itself is very logical; with mountain-moving amounts of torque and 240 horsepower on tap, the 2.4-litre JTD turbodiesel motor could very well make this the fastest Alfa currently in production without the devastating fuel bill.

While the Brera should have enough firepower to challenge mid- to high-end sports cars, the weak point in powerful Alfas has always been the chassis. Since its move to front-wheel drive, Alfa has once again reached the limits of power with the 156 GTA. The Brera will be a different story, as Alfa has worked hard to develop the 'Q4' power delivery system to seriously challenge the Germans through permanent all-wheel drive.

Rather than taking the easy route by using a Haldex-based system like Volvo or the Audi TT which only distributes significant amounts of power to the rear wheels when the front ones begin to slip, the Brera receives the latest

*continues on page 8*

## Denim Alfa Romeo Shirts



### 100% Cotton Denim Shirt \$22

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size M, L, XL: \$22

size 2XL, 3XL: \$27

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11831 St Charles Rock Road  
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(Across from Grandpa's)

**388-1181**

10617 New Halls Ferry  
St Louis MO 63136  
(1/2 mile south of I-270)

## For Sale

• **1988 Alfa Romeo Spider Quadrifoglio**, (pictures on page 5 and at right.) 61k, silver/red exterior/interior, original hard top, 5 NEW Firestone Indy 500 tires (not mounted), OEM AM/FM Cassette Radio, OEM top cover, very little rust, solid frame, sounds great (Volpe exhaust), work on car for past 3 years by Bob Volpe or Jon Rhodes). Car currently at Volpe's St Charles Rock Road Meineke Shop. Stop by, give her a look/drive.

**The Bad:** She's a 10 foot car--looks great from 10 ft due to old paint job. Interior door panels need to be re-backed. Interior needs some restoration--air vent, small crack in dash, some small pieces missing, black side panel that holds gas door and trunk releases needs to be replaced, etc. Nothing major.

Automatic Passive Restraints (automatic seat belts). Not Good, not Bad, not Ugly, but you need to know about them. Only about 800 spiders were made with the auto seatbelts. Driver side doesn't work, passenger side works fine. I've been unable to locate another motor. But there's a manual hook-up point so it doesn't really make a huge difference. I'll include the seat belt section of the workshop manual.

**The Ugly:** 2nd gear synchro, She failed her most recent IL emissions test, she has a fuel gremlin--when tank level drops below 3/4 full, get hesitation on accel. and rt turns.



On full tank she runs great. Filters and both fuel pumps were replaced.

**Asking price:** Fixed up I'd ask \$7000. I'm asking \$4000. Pete Mastroianni (618) 910-4834. Email: [pmastroianni@charter.net](mailto:pmastroianni@charter.net). **New Price!**

• **'74 Spider**, red, many new items including recored radiator, tires, master cyl, brakes, upholstery, alt, battery, ign. wires, more. Floor replaced on driver's side, patched on passenger's side. New Volpe custom exhaust. Stored inside while we'ved owned it. \$3500. Kevin Chapman, (314) 972-1836, [jkchappy@yahoo.com](mailto:jkchappy@yahoo.com). Runs fine. A lot of work and love went into this car. **New Listing!**

• **Folding Travel Chairs**, red with Alfa Romeo embroidery. 2 chairs w/o arms \$20 each. 2 chairs with arms \$25 each. Steve Coldewe 636-464-4019 [alfa57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alfa57@sbcglobal.net).

• **Wanted: 1962-65 Giulia spider or Speciale.** It must be a nice car that I can get into and go for a drive or club activities. I'm too old for another project car. This is a very serious inquiry from a Alfa member in N.E.Ohio. Please contact me at 440-895-1358 or [jjweh@peoplepc.com](mailto:jjweh@peoplepc.com). And we can talk. Joe A. Wehrheim Club # 34913

• **Wanted: GTV coupe**, preferably from someone who understands and cares about the cars. Rick Martin [martinr81@aol.com](mailto:martinr81@aol.com)

• **'83 Spider Veloce**, Odo shows 30,000 but may be higher. Car in very good condition inside and out and runs great. I have owned it for the last 7 years and in that time have not driven it over a total of 3000 miles. Last year I had cat. conv. and oxygen sensor replaced and motor tuned up to pass emissions test. Also all the motor and tranny mounts were replaced. All work done at Bob Volpe's shop. Overall I think it is a great car. Asking \$4500. Rob Gyngard, 314-831-2163 (h), 314-731-6300, ext 2478 (w), [rgyngard@ford.com](mailto:rgyngard@ford.com) or [rgyngard@peoplepc.com](mailto:rgyngard@peoplepc.com)

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from [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 2/14/2005

## Fiat gets GM pay-out but stakes still high

TURIN, Feb 14 (Reuters) - Analysts welcomed a \$2 billion settlement to end a long row between Fiat and General Motors on Monday but said the onus was now on the Italian group to turn around its ailing auto business. Under the deal, Fiat gave up a put option to sell Fiat Auto to GM and the groups dissolved their powertrain and purchasing joint ventures. Fiat and GM will continue to co-own a diesel engine plant in Poland and share intellectual property.

Following are selected comments from financial analysts:

**Adam Jonas, Morgan Stanley:** Fiat still has the same main problems, it's just that now they have to deal with them alone. It adds a bit more risk of the Punto change-over and relaunch. GM got one of the few bits of Fiat Auto that has value — the diesel engines. Fiat needs to look for a partner in Europe or abroad but one of the best things they have to offer they are now sharing with GM so it could complicate negotiations.

Now there isn't the anchor of the put option on the share price, the stock will be more sensitive to fundamental data like monthly car sales figures.

A quick settlement is better than a court battle and the proceeds are slightly higher than we expected (but) the result falls far short of what is needed to compensate Fiat investors for the risks of holding onto the cash burning asset.

**Cedric Besnard, JP Morgan:** Fiat has turned into a restructuring story. They are going to renew 30 percent of their volumes this year. If they can improve the mix and sales quality the restructuring could work.

The GM deal won Fiat flexibility and time but the problems haven't been solved. I'd say they have a bit more than a 50-50 chance of turning things around.

Fiat still has some partnership with GM which is good. But now they also have strategic flexibility to find a new partner. They could link with any of the largest car companies. They need a generalist — probably not a U.S. one — but anyone else. There were rumours about Toyota but it's just

one among others.

With new products coming out, Fiat needs to improve its brand image and its pricing. We'll know in 12 months whether they've been successful or not.

The settlement amount (1.5 euros per share or 1.1 euros net) is at the high end of market speculation. The settlement should be positive for Fiat's valuation. High probability of Fiat being in net profit in 2005 after one-off gains should trigger payment of a 3-year dividend on the savings share (19.8 percent yield).

The payment largely removes the liquidity risk for Fiat Group and reduces pressure to refinance 2005 and 2006 maturities at unfavourable terms.

**Unnamed Milan-based Analyst:** The deal is certainly positive but the future is a bit uncertain. Without the joint ventures they won't have such huge cost savings which could hit Fiat Auto's profitability in the short term.

I don't think they'll have any great difficulty getting new alliances in the future. Everybody is always talking with everybody else. Of course Fiat will have to tread carefully, drawing on the wealth of its past experience.

**Moody's Investor Service:** In the past Moody's has not implied any cash inflow resulting from the put option. In the longer term, Moody's concerns with respect to Fiat's attempts to turn around the operating performance of Fiat Auto remain. Fiat has publicly stated its intentions for Fiat Auto to achieve positive operating income and operating cash flow by year end 2006.

For Moody's to consider a change in the outlook from negative to stable, Fiat Group will need to evidence a sustainable turnaround of the Fiat Auto business in line with its stated intentions by 2006. At the same time, Moody's would expect the Group's overall liquidity profile to have become more manageable in terms of its 12 months debt maturity profile whilst evidencing increasing operating cash flow contributions from all its remaining core businesses, CNH, Iveco and Fiat Auto.



from [www.magnecor.com](http://www.magnecor.com) FAQ

## How much extra horsepower will Magnecor Race Wires create?

Professional race engine preparers do not use Magnecor Race Wires to increase engine horsepower—they use them to maintain full engine horsepower. Often, production vehicle owners comment that engine performance increased after they fitted Magnecor Race Wires, and most owners of modified vehicles find that horsepower increases during a dyno test—however, in reality, performance increases because the engine's potential power was previously restrained by:

(1) Failing conductors in original equipment ignition wires; (2) Failing conductors in aftermarket carbon conductor and European and Japanese spiral conductor ignition wires; (3) Failing resistor-connectors on German ignition wires; (4) Aftermarket spiral "low-resistance" and "super conductor" ignition wires interfering with the engine's

electronics; (5) So-called "built-in capacitor" ignition wires inducing too much available current to ground straps and interfering with the engine's electronics.

Despite what is published in advertisements and some vested interest magazine articles, no spark plug wires will generate or "install" additional horsepower. However, a decrease in horsepower will occur if the wires' conductors fail to conduct the spark energy needed to fire spark plug gaps, or EMI emitted from spark plug wires causes the engine management computer to react abnormally, or so much spark energy is lost into the ground straps of so-called "built-in capacitor" wires that little is left to fire the spark plug gaps — see test in Circle Track Magazine (USA), May, 1996 issue. For these reasons, Magnecor Race Wires are used by many successful race teams and individuals all over the world to eliminate the risk of such events occurring.



## FIAT Freak Out 2005 at Lake of the Ozarks

[We recently received an invitation to participate in the annual FIAT Freak Out. St Louis Alfa Club members I talked to were very enthusiastic about this event, so we are making it an official St Louis Alfa Club event. -- rhh]

I'm Mike Greer the event coordinator for Fiat Freak Out 2005 that will be held at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Lake of the Ozarks, MO this June 24th to 27th. Although the event is the largest gathering of Fiat and Lancia automobiles in the country, it has been our club's tradition to openly welcome and invite other Italian marques to participate in the Consorso D'Eleganza that will be held on Saturday June 26th as part of this event. We know of a few Alfas in the area and are making an attempt to notify them of this event and invite all area Alfa and other Italian marques to participate in this event and take advantage of the fantastic resort location. Our event registration page will be up and running shortly but to get a preview of the event please go to <http://ffo05.italiancarclub.com/index.html> and take a look at the preliminary plan.

Tan-Tar-A is one of the finest resort locations in the Midwest and this will be an exciting Italian automobile event with cars from all over the country. If you know of any Alfa owners in the area that might be interested, it would be greatly appreciated if you would pass this information along to them. We had an Alfa Romeo class at last year's event and would like to have one at this year's event as well.

Best regards,  
Mike Greer  
FFO 2005 Event Coordinator  
Fiat Lancia Unlimited Board of Directors  
[greermr@cpchem.com](mailto:greermr@cpchem.com)

*Coming in April . . .*

### Alfa Swap Meet/Model Car Display

**3 pm, Saturday April 2**

Steve and Sherri Coldewe's, Imperial MO

**RSVP (636) 464-4019,  
[alfa57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alfa57@sbcglobal.net)**

What do you need for your car . . . and what do you have that someone else needs . . . grill piece, a special tool, wheels, books, manuals, magazines, literature, thermostatic actuator, headlight cover? Well, this is your opportunity to sell your spares and pick up some goodies for your special car. So come to the flea market and be prepared to buy, sell, or swap car parts, tools, literature, and other goodies.

After all the buying, selling, and swapping is done, we'll have a casual dinner and view some of Steve's extensive model car collection. The flea market starts at 3pm. We'll have cold cuts, sandwich fixings, and soft drinks. BYOB. Bring a side dish to share. **Directions:** Take Hwy 55 South to Imperial Exit (#187). Turn right on Outer Road on right. Follow Outer Rd to Seckman Rd on left. Follow Seckman to Seckman Lake Estates on left (Driftwood Dr). Our house is 5221 Driftwood Dr on right. 636-464-4019.

### Fiat Freakout Tentative Schedule

Friday, June 24:

Registration  
Evening Happy Hour (cash bar)  
Evening Barbeque Buffet (FFO prepaid event)  
Night Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, June 25:

Concours Display, (FFO prepaid event)  
After Concourse Drive around the Lake of the Ozarks  
Evening Awards Banquet, (FFO prepaid event)

Sunday, June 26:

Morning Autocross  
Afternoon Cave Tour, Drive, Yacht Cruise,  
Fun on the Lake  
Evening Italian Dinner Buffet, (FFO prepaid event)

## Easter Car Show

**11 am - 4:30 pm, Sunday March 27**

**Muny Upper Parking Lot,  
Forest Park**

**To Show Car Contact Rich Hirsch by Mar 16**

Again this year the club will participate in the annual Easter Car Show in Forest Park to promote the club and just have a good time. This extremely popular show has been held every year since 1961 and most of you have probably attended it.

We would like to have as many members' cars as possible in the Display category. Janet and I will be entering our '67 Duetto. Vehicles in the Display category will NOT be judged so the preparation for the event should be minimal.

The requirements for Display are:

- vehicle must be insured
- vehicle must be equipped with a fire extinguisher (extinguishers are available at registration gate for \$20).

The entry fee for Display is \$15. **Contact Rich Hirsch by March 16** (314-962-7833 or [rhirsch@catenary.com](mailto:rhirsch@catenary.com)) to participate with the club. Since we are required to drive into the show as a club, we will meet at Ralph Coldewe's house at 9:30 am.

For more general information about the Easter Car Show, call 991-4665.

## Glass bead blasting cylinder heads

**Q** I am rebuilding a V-6 engine. I took the cylinder heads down to the local Carquest Machine Shop for a good power cleaning. For various reasons Carquest ended up cleaning the heads using glass bead blasting. And while the heads look great, the natural casting patina of the aluminum is forever gone. But more importantly, when I tried to reassemble the head, intake buckets would not fit into their bores because the glass bead blasting caused enough roughing of the bucket bores to keep the bucket from sliding into place. Now I have to disassemble the intake valves and springs and polish the bores to get the buckets to fit correctly. Can these heads be saved or are they trashed?

**A** I suggest that you throw those heads away. Glassbead media is now imbedded into the aluminum - it will wash out of any areas that oil flows through as the head heats and cools. Then you will have abrasive in your oil, which will lodge in the bearings and destroy the crank and possibly the cams. Walnut shells or perhaps baking soda are about the most aggressive abrasive media that should be used on engine parts. Frankly, I don't use anything beyond solvent on my engines. -- Jay Mackro

**A** I clean a lot of engine parts in a glass bead blasting cabinet, but NO heads. Before I bead-blast a part, it has to be degreased, all machined surfaces taped and all orifices plugged. Afterwards, I clean it with Castrol Super Cleaner-Degreaser and hot water and blow it dry. Taping and plugging a head is a PITA, so I clean heads in the parts washer first, then with Castrol Super Cleaner, and they come out looking like new, i.e. shiney.

Bead-blasting aluminum machined surfaces with high air pressure, 70 psi or more, which is what commercial shops do to speed up the process, can and WILL damage the surface, because the beads shatter, instead of bouncing off. Not to mention that it will take forever to properly flush the bead dust out of the head. Unfortunately, any dust and beads left behind will end up in the oil or the coolant causing bad things to happen. But that's long after you paid the machine shop.

Moral of the story? Local shops don't know or care about Alfas, but they won't send you away either cause they need the money. Find an Alfa expert: he'll probably charge more but it will be right.--Hans Milo



*Brera continued from page 3*

Torsen C center differential, which has been set to send 58% of the power to the rear wheels in normal conditions to create the balance and fluidity of a rear-wheel drive car.

To get the upper hand on whatever the road dishes out, the Q4 system is completely adaptable. Should snow or rain compromise traction, the Torsen differential can shift up to 70 percent of the power to the rear wheels, or up to 60 percent to the front wheels.

The advanced all-wheel drive system will be standard equipment on the more powerful JTD and V6 models, while the entry-level JTS will make do with front-wheel drive. Advanced traction and electronic systems which monitor braking and road holding will also provide an added edge in all driving conditions.

As for the chassis, the Brera starts off on a clean slate using Alfa's new Premium platform, which will also be used to underpin the upcoming 157 premium sedan, set to make its debut later this year. As with GM architecture, to maintain vehicle identity, there are some differences between the 157 and the Brera; the latter rides on a shorter wheelbase, and features a spaceframe construction for the upper body. Alfa claims that the double-wishbone and multi-link suspension will give its new sports car "outstanding drivability".

Like the concept car did, the Brera will make its debut at the Geneva Motor Show, set for early March of this year. Alfa hopes to have the Brera on sale in European markets by the end of this year. Though it hasn't been confirmed, expect to see a convertible version, perhaps under a different name with different styling sometime in 2007.

What does the Brera mean to us in North America? As it stands, not a whole lot, as Alfa Romeo has been absent from

our shores since the brand retreated in the early '90s, shutting down its network of dealers. Since that time, things have changed; although the Fiat Group, of which Alfa Romeo is a key member, is financially troubled, its links to GM may mean a comeback as early as 2007.

Like Citroen, Peugeot and Renault, Alfa Romeo and Fiat know that North America is a market that could completely turn tables. With a recently overhauled range, including the Brera, 157, and the forthcoming compact 148, expect to see some sort of move announced in the months to come.

Preliminary Specifications

Body Type: 3-door coupe

Layout: front engine, FWD (optional AWD)

Base Engine: 185-hp, 16-valve 2.2L DOHC direct injection I-4

Optional Engine: 260-hp, 24-valve 3.2L DOHC V6

Optional Engine: 240-hp, 16-valve 2.4L DOHC turbodiesel I-4

Transmission: 6-spd manual (optional automatic)

Exterior Dimensions (L/W/H): 4,414 / 1,830 / 1,372 mm (173.8 / 72.1 / 54.0 in)

Brakes (front/rear): disc/disc, ABS, EBD

Seating Capacity: 4 (2+2)

Competition: Audi TT / A4 Cabriolet, BMW 3-Series Coupe, Chrysler Crossfire, Infiniti G35 Coupe, Mazda RX-8, Mercedes-Benz CLK / SLK, Porsche Boxster, Saab 9-3 Cabriolet

Web Site: [www.alfaromeo.com](http://www.alfaromeo.com)



Note Bene continued from page 1

important when one is resigning from a job after 17 yrs): "Put a red line through the name of every negative person in your address book. Avoid those people." Hell, why didn't someone give me this book 6 months ago?

Thank God, we have a car club were that rule (#1) is invalid, unnecessary and a laughable idea! Now, as for other St Louis car clubs?..Hmmm (private joke).

### Best Road Trips

We all know that testosterone is associated with adventure? What are the best road trips we all need to consider taking before "the final dirt nap"?

*Autoweek* mag supplement in my trash compactor..

a) Cal Hiway 1, San Fran to LA...amazing, stop off about 2 days in San Luis Obispo, Cal to tour Hearst Castle/Ranch thing..(relative of Patti Hearst, Symbionese Liberation Army spoiled brat.from 1970s News TV cycles.)

b) Arkansas Hiway 7: Ozark natl Forest and thru Ouachita Mountains. Drive to Hot Springs? See oldsters in plaid pants enjoying life?

c) Blue Ridge Parkway: Been there via bike. No 7-11 stores for miles, so be prepared. 469 maintained roads. Watch for "Deliverance" types in local stores. Almost scared me to death the first time I saw really ignorant Hillbillies (no joking!) in 1970s wearing my tight Spandex biking shorts with shaved legs..asking for a ride in a pickup truck after I took the wrong turn down a mountain.

d) Continental Divide via Glacier Natl park: Logan Pass at height 6664 ft. Bring along high altitude headache prevention pills. Worse headache of my life was in Dillon, Colorado, height about 12,000 feet, way above the timber line.

e) Hawaii 200: Volcanic peaks of Mauna Kea (13,796 ft) or Mauna Loa (13,680 ft). Maybe bring the SUV as pavement is rough in places. Can anybody give a review next newsletter?

f) Ohio 78: Southeastern part of state Nelsonville to Wayne Natl Forest to Ohio River. Anybody do this drive? Maybe Lains and Kara did this last year?

g) Another US Hiway 1: Miami to Key West. Done it several times as my Dad was a big Scuba guy, much to my family's chagrin. Salty, bug bitten, associated sunburn in August in SE Florida is not to be easily forgotten.

h) US Hiway 50 Eastbound: Still Depressed? Do what Dr Phil told ya! 400 miles of Nevada to Utah scenario. US 50 parallels Hiway 70 at times, also called the "Loneliest Road in America?" Hmm, why do I wanna go there if I am depressed???

i) Vermont 100: Speaking of another Dr Dean, demented as well, prone to inappropriate screaming fits. Fall colors to be seen. I did bike riding here in Fall 1986 or so, rode to Canadian border with one of USA's few woman neurosurgeons...and back in one day..totally exhausting, she did better than I did. Roads amazing and safe for bikes as well as Alfas.

### St Louis Car Show reviews

I dunno, didn't go this year. So, my associate will report...via my alumni newsletter. Dan Neil is NC State Univ (MA grad from 1987) who gives terse reviews of cars (he's won awards for same):

Mini Cooper: "The back seat is the automotive equivalent of a spider hole in Tikrit.."

Bentley Continental GT: Ian Fleming had 007 drive a Bentley and called it his "locomotive." Later versions gave Sean Connery an Aston Martin, but, back to the Bentley. "This is not Pierce Brosnan at the baccarat tables, it is Sean Connery drunk with hangover, a warm gun barrel and a fresh clip..Duck and Cover!"

Acura TL: "Everything works, everything fits, it goes like hell, what's not to like?" "Then again what's to LOVE?" "What does the TL say about me?" "That I subscribe to *Consumer Reports*?"

Rolls Royce Phantom: "Not since torch wielding peasants chased Frankenstein's Monster through the town square has such a noble spirit been so mercilessly taunted."

Toyota Scion xB: "The xB is to the sleek-and-low styling of sporty imports what chainsaw sculpture is to the Italian Renaissance."

### Italy, testosterone, idiots

Some theme here? "*Top Gear*" magazine from Dec 2004 reports Italians buy the worlds smallest cars but pay heavy taxes, parking fees to excess, car insurance premiums have doubled since late 1990s. Traffic fines are UP last yr from 68 Euros to 137 Euros for basic offenses. Since summer, 2004, all Italians REQUIRED to have reflective jacket in car to wear when repairing Alfa-SPICA pumps along road "Never on a Sunday"?

Still, not as expensive as Singapore, purchase tariff to own your own damn car is 120% of the cost of the car. Renewed every 10 yrs. Cars must carry "stored value cards" in glovebox which are progressive fees to pay when entering "congested areas".

India has cheapest car in the world, the "Maruti 800." Spare parts are half the price of Jap cars, but, toll roads taking effect, largest growth in same in whole world between now and 2010. Toll roads in India date back to 320 B.C. yet another example of too much testosterone!

Zimbabwe politicians have had enough of the disrespect among the poor proletariat bastards! In that country, it is illegal to make ANY hand gesture at a passing state motor-car, however subtle you may intend to be.

Kenya: No driving "sans clothes" ..punishment said to be "exportation without clothing too."

China Beijing City: It is illegal to stop your vehicle at a pedestrian crossing. Five Yuan fine if you do so.

Japan: Hula hoops outlawed since 1950s, as too many traffic rubberneckers crashed into others while watching "hoops around hips" movements

### Excess Cop testosterone?

Darwin Awards from 12-21-92, No Carolina files: Officer Jacob (blank) accidently shot himself to death in Newton,

continues on page 10

## Alfisti Cooks!

by Sue Houser

January's dinner at the Robert E. Lee in Kimmswick was very nice. The weather was cold and blustery and it made the walk from the parking lot to the restaurant seem rather long, but the food was good and my dining companions were delightful as usual.

I am looking forward to Sunday's drive. February can seem so dreary. A nice drive with Alfisti friends will definitely brighten the month.

There were several requests (I should say demands) for the Lemon Meringue Pie brought to the Christmas Party. After my last month's appeal for the Chef, Dan Murphy emailed me and fessed up. He also reminded me he brought the same dish to the 2002 Christmas Party and we published in the February *Alfisti Cooks!* column. Thanks for jogging my memory.

*Note Bene continued from page 9*

NC when he suddenly awoke to ringing telephone, reached for the phone, but picked up his Smith and Wesson .38 Special instead, put the thing to his ear and discharged the weapon. Reminds me of the dreams I had my last night of Internship, alcohol-celebration related, I kept dreaming about ringing telephones. When I woke up, I discovered I ripped the phone cord out the wall, in effort to achieve some sleep..I honestly had no recall of doing it. Fortunately, the hospital simply wanted to inform me a patient had died, he was "no code Blue" anyway.

### **Salesman, Death of. xs Testosterone Redux..**

March 1993 Florida papers report a Hialeah "sales- GUY" smashed into a pole along I 95 at estimated 80 mph. Sales manual was found open and clutched to chest, as he was "reading and speeding" to his detriment.

### **Darwin Haikus**

Death happens to all.  
Some have quite a while to wait.  
Some knock on Death's door.  
-- Tardis

Stupidity kills  
Absolute stupidity  
Kills absolutely  
-- Silverhill

Dude had a screw loose.  
Glad he didn't reproduce.  
Darwin saved the day.  
-- ddigler

### **Non Haikus..related to xs testosterone again..**

"If all else fails, immortality can always be assured by spectacular error" ..John Kenneth Galbraith (Socialist economist)

### **Dan Murphy's Lemon Meringue Pie**

Crust:  
8 ounces plain, sweet cookies, crumbled  
4 ounces melted butter

Mix altogether and press in the bottom and 3/4 up the sides of an 8-inch spring form pan.

Filling:  
8 ounces cream cheese  
14 ounce can condensed sweetened milk  
2 eggs separated  
1 dessert spoon of grated lemon rind  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
1/2 cup sugar

Beat cheese until smooth. Then beat in condensed milk, lemon rind, lemon juice and egg yolks. Pour into crust. Whip egg whites to soft peaks. Gradually beat in 1/4 cup of sugar. Beat until stiff. Fold in 1/4 cup of sugar. Spread evenly over filling. Bake at 425 degrees for 10 minutes to brown the meringue. Cool and remove from pan.

Thanks again Dan and hope to see everyone for the February drive.

Woof and Meows  
Sue



### **Scuba and Forest Fires (Darwin Awards again)**

California fire marshals in 1998 were puzzled by a corpse in full SCUBA gear, lungs full of sea water, in middle of massive remote forest fire..his body extinguished about 1.78 square meters of the fire upon impact. What happened?

The big helicopters towed large buckets of ocean water over to fire site to dump on said fire.

Well, one "Cowboy chopper pilot" dumped the empty water bucket into a skin diving area, one minute "Mr Sea-World environmental wacko professor" admiring the beautiful California sea life, then next minute he is being hoisted up into a helicopter fire bucket at 300 meters.

No slow decompression class either!

Whether he died from the bends before being splattered into the raging fire is something for QUINCY -TV show-Jack Klugman- coroner types to speculate about.

Moral of story? "Please remain calm if you are suddenly scooped from the ocean", and "Hang onto the damn bucket as it is being poured on the fires!"

"Only two things are infinite—the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not so sure about the universe"

Albert Einstein, Scientific Advisor to the Darwin Awards

See ya at Feb 20th drive. Drive safe..no xs testosterone prizes! No Darwin de la driving Awards, P-L-E-A-S-E, especially while driving on black ice among Franklin County roads. Remember, "There ain't no good hospital there no more!" heheheheh ("pay back" is sweet sometimes..Old Testament, I know)

Dr phil



# Spring Fling

Alfa Romeo Owners of St Louis

Phil Dean, Pres (636) 795-5015

Norma Urani, Registration (314) 638-9729

**Where** Washington MO environs,  
(approximately 40 miles west  
of St Louis)

**When** Friday, April 29  
Saturday, April 30  
Sunday, May 1

**Events**

- **Rally/tour** through Missouri wine country
- **Autocross**
- **Concours**

Art Exhibition  
Swap Meet  
Banquet  
Awards brunch

**Registration** \$25 per car

**Hotel** Lewis & Clark Inn  
Washington MO  
tel (636) 239-0111  
fax (636) 239-3657

Rates: \$64.95/king; \$69.95/double  
Contact hotel by April 14 for reservation  
and mention "Alfa Club."

**Friday Night** "Chats & Drinks" 3 - 6pm at Lewis & Clark  
Dinner: 6 pm at a local eatery, Individual  
check

**Saturday Banquet**

Door prizes and entertainment  
Cost \$20 per person

**Sunday Awards Brunch**  
Altemuellers'  
Individual check

**Art Exhibition** Theme: *In Motion*  
All media. Original works are eligible for  
popular vote judging.

## Spring Fling 2005 Registration

Make check payable to: **Alfa Owners of St Louis**

Send registration form and check by April 22 to:

**Norma Urani**  
**8301 Julia Dr,**  
**St Louis MO 63123**  
**(314) 638-9729**

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

PHONE .....

EMAIL .....

CAR DESCRIPTION .....

EVENTS YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN:

RALLY       AUTOCROSS       CONCOURS

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER       ART EXHIBITION

BANQUET       AWARDS BRUNCH

APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME .....

CAR REGISTRATION (\$25 PER CAR) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET DINNER (\$20 PER PERSON) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions?

Call Walt Hatcher: (636) 239-2690, or email to [rhirsch@catenary.com](mailto:rhirsch@catenary.com), or visit [www.catenary.com/fling](http://www.catenary.com/fling)

Alfa Romeo 2006 Brera



*!Saluti!*  
Alfa Romeo Owners of St Louis  
470 Bellevue  
St Louis MO 63119

Feb 20 Presidents' Day Drive

## February 2005 AROC St Louis

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>20</b>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					