



i Saluti

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Note Bene

by Phil Dean, Pres

Developing a Strategic Plan for the Holiday or Visions of Pinifarina, SPICA injections and DeDion suspensions danced in his head

Much in store at Houser 12-12-2004 Sunday ALFA annual stockholder's meeting with pot luck food and gift exchange ala Italian Mafia hit. Also election of officers. The "official" slate is set, same as last year, but "write in candidates" are allowed before the election. I am sure ANY St Louis AROC officer will be glad to do an "LBJ 1968" move if "change of the guard" is so desired.

Website www.speedgear.com does not have ALFA stuff (other than books) in strict sense of word, but plenty of Ferrari knock offs. My favs are six speed, chromed paperweight or door clothes-hook to mimic a shift pattern on a 360 Modena (only \$29.95 plus S&H). Aluminum bathroom paper dispenser is close second. Sway bar watch may be too mod for me. ENZO Ferrari radio controlled car is on sale..(1/14 scale) at \$129.95.

Stock market predicted to go UP in 2005, as it has every year ending in
continues on page 10

Next Event . . .

Christmas Party Sunday Dec 12, 3 pm

**Mike and Sue Houser's
 12736 W Watson
 Sunset Hills MO 63127
 RSVP 842-4832**

Bring: A gift of up to \$10 value and a covered dish

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at Mike and Sue Houser's on Sunday December 12th at 3 pm. Be sure to attend. The club will provide turkey, soft drinks, wine and beer. Please bring a covered dish and a gift for the gift exchange -- if you wish. The gift may be serious or a gag and should be valued at \$10 or less, everyone who brings a gift will receive one.



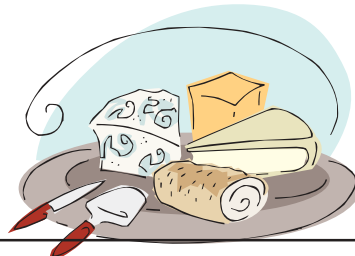
Past gifts included embroidered boxers, a 2' x 4' foam pad (Jefferson County creeper), bunny slippers, travel bags, wine, books about Alfas, donuts.

This is one of the best events of the year and we especially invite all of our new members, subscribers, and friends to attend. At the Christmas Party we will discuss next year's events and elect club officers for 2005. RSVP to Sue at 314-842-4832. Map on p. 10.

Coming in January . . .

Dinner/Meeting at the Robert E Lee 6 pm Saturday Jan 22

Our January meeting will be **6pm Saturday, January 22 at the Robert E Lee Restaurant in Kimmswick.** (We will finalize the date and time at the Christmas Party.) Be sure to bring your spouse or friend for a great meal.



Items for discussion will be general Alfa topics and upcoming events.

RSVP: Janet Hirsch at (314) 962-7833 or (636) 285-0813 if you plan to attend.

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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St Louis AROC website

www.catenary.com/isaluti

President

Phil Dean
409 E Main St
Warrenton MO 63383
(636) 795-5015 cell
(636) 456-DEAN home
pdeanmd@earthlink.net

Vice-President

John Ryman
RR2 Box 115
Virginia IL 62691
(217) 323-2046
ryman@casscomm.com

Secretary & Recipe Maven

Sue Houser
12736 W Watson
St Louis MO 63127
(314) 842-4832
alfadesign@charter.net

Treasurer

Jane Rauth
27 Marsally
St Louis MO 63131
(314) 991-4890
jrauth@absorene.com

Newsletter

Rich and Janet Hirsch
470 Bellevue
St Louis MO 63119
(314) 962-7833 voice
(636) 285-0813 voice
(314) 962-8037 fax
rhirsch@catenary.com

Program Advisor

Dan Murphy
433 Clearview Dr
Belleville IL 62223
(618) 236-6322
murphydc@charter.net

Director

Walt Hatcher
Washington MO 63090
(636) 239-2690 voice
(636) 239-3006 fax

Tech Advisor

Bob Volpe
2103 County Cork Dr, Apt 2
Chesterfield MO 63017
(314) 731-0914 office

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2004 Calendar

Dec 12 **Alfa Club Christmas Party** at the Housers' home

2005 St Louis AROC Event Calendar

[All dates and times are tentative -- rhh]

Jan 22 (Saturday)	Dinner, Robert E. Lee, Kimmswick MO
Feb 20 (Sunday)	Presidents' Day Drive
Mar 27 (Sunday)	Easter Car Show
Apr 2 (Saturday)	Swap Meet (Steve and Sherri)
Apr 29 - May 1	Spring Fling
May 28 & 29	Quincy II (John and Sharon)
Jun 5 (Sunday)	European Car Show
Jul 23 (Saturday)	Day at the Lake (Rich and Janet)
Aug/Sep	Hatcher's Picnic/John & Nancy's Soiree
Sep 17 (Saturday)	Greentree Festival Car Show (Harden)
Sep 24 (Saturday)	Hermann Tour (Chuck and Sally)
Oct 2 (Sunday)	Tech Day at Volpe's Shop
Oct 9 (Sunday)	Columbus Day Parade (Norma)
Oct 28 - 30	Eureka Springs AR (Kansas City AROC)
Nov 5 (Saturday)	Planning Meeting (Ralph and Jane)
Dec 11 (Sunday)	Christmas Party (Mike and Sue)



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Alfa GT Collects Two More Awards

Alfa Romeo's stunning new coupé, the Alfa GT, has triumphed over stiff competition to win two important European accolades for its outstanding design.

As well as winning the prestigious Design Trophy awarded by the French publication, L'Automobile, the Alfa GT has triumphed at the annual awards for the L'Automobile Più Bella del

Mondo (The Most Beautiful Car in the World), winning the votes of an international jury of leading designers, artists, engineers and architects in Milan, Italy.

The jurors elected the Alfa GT the most beautiful coupé/cabriolet in the world because of its classically seductive Italian design, interpreting Alfa Romeo's traditional styling influences in a modern way to produce a car that is both assertive and elegant, spaciouly versatile and uncompromisingly sporty.



The judges recognised the skill with which the stylists at Bertone and Centro Stile Alfa Romeo had drawn on Alfa Romeo's extensive heritage, in particular the 1900 SS, the

Giulietta Sprint, the Alfetta and Giulia Sprint GT, yet had produced a car that has its own unique style and character.

The sought-after annual Design Trophy awarded by French

publication L'Automobile also celebrated the Alfa GT's styling, with its readers voting for the Italian coupé ahead of competition that included the new Mercedes CLS and the Citroën C4.

Wolfgang Egger, head of Centro Stile Alfa Romeo, and Lilli Bertone accepted the award at the 26th Trophées de L'Automobile, their joint presence marking Alfa Romeo's long-standing cooperation with various Italian designers.



from www.newcarnet.co.uk

Final edition Spider goes on sale (09.11.2004)

The final edition of the Alfa Romeo Spider is now available, prior to the model's being withdrawn from the UK market.

The special version Alfa Spiders are available in Alfa Red, Lightning Blue and Light Grey metallic external colours with a choice of 2.0 JTS and the powerful 3.2 V6 24v engines under the bonnet. The final edition of just 80 remaining examples of this classic car boasts all the features of the Lusso specification, including electric roof, leather steering wheel, heated electric door mirrors and automatic climate control.

Priced at £23,510 for the 165 bhp 2.0 JTS and £28,300 for the 240 bhp 3.2 V6 24v, the Alfa Spider, designed by Centro Stile Alfa Romeo in collaboration with Pininfarina, is the last in a line of Spiders stretching back more than 50 years.



Embroidered Alfa T-shirts



Heavy weight cotton t-shirt \$20

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Sue Houser

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St Louis MO 63127

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Bridgeton MO 63044
(Across from Grandpa's)

388-1181
10617 New Halls Ferry
St Louis MO 63136
(1/2 mile south of I-270)

Fiat in Trouble, continued from page 6

mini, with its high roof and spacious interior, will exceed sales of 250,000 this year — 25% higher than the company forecast a year ago. The new Fiat Idea minivan and Lancia Ypsilon subcompact are also helping stabilize sales.

Yet fierce competition from the French, Japanese, and Koreans has kept the company under pressure. Fiat's revenue per car actually dropped in the first 10 months of 2004, despite the new models, and its market share in Western Europe edged down slightly, to 5.5%. "Their biggest problem is a bad image. This leads to a continuous price deterioration," says Arndt Ellinghorst, analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in Frankfurt. To climb back, Fiat will have to pump as much as \$1.5 billion more a year into new-model development than the turnaround plan envisions, experts say.

Fiat's fate — and GM's investment — depend in large part on the success of the next Punto. The Punto, a top-selling model in Europe that accounts for 40% of revenues, has twice revived Fiat's fortunes before. A hit Punto, combined with serious restructuring, might power Fiat Auto to breakeven in 2006. That's Marchionne's plan. But first he has to have that dinner with Wagoner — and press a deal on a rescuer who wants out of the rescue business. -- Gail Edmondson in Frankfurt, with David Welch in Detroit.



For Sale


- **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.
- **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. 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



- **'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 or rgyngard@peoplepc.com
- **'86 Alfa Romeo Spider Quadrifoglio**, 64k orig miles. Silver with gray leather (red stitching). Car is in very good condition inside and out and runs well. It needs some minor attention (new top - I never put it up and new tires). I owned it for 4 years but a crazy travel schedule and the kids playing soccer, etc. have it sitting in the garage more than it should. Bob Volpe just did full engine overhaul (and new exhaust) about 1.5 years ago. Great car worth \$6k. Asking \$5k so you can buy a top and tires. Ken Stocker, 314-754-5912 w, 314-283-8728 c, Kenny.Stocker@riverfronttimes.com



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Fiat Is In Deep, Deep Trouble

The company may try to force GM to buy its money-losing auto unit — or kick in cash

When General Motors Corp. (GM) Chief Executive G. Richard "Rick" Wagoner Jr. and Fiat (FIA) group CEO Sergio Marchionne sit down on Dec. 14 to dine after meeting at GM's regional headquarters in Zurich, the question of industrial marriage or divorce will hang in the air. Marchionne insists he still may wield the disputed put option inked by Wagoner and late Fiat Chairman Gianni Agnelli in 2000, a put that would force GM to buy out the loss-making Italian auto maker. General Motors argues that a subsequent recapitalization and asset sell-off at Fiat have invalidated the put. Now the one-year legal truce agreed to by GM and Fiat to find a solution has just lapsed. That means Marchionne could seek to force a union as of Jan. 24, 2005. "He is considering all options," says one Milan investment banker close to the company.

Being forced to buy Fiat Auto is the nightmare scenario for GM. Four years ago, GM and Fiat had just inked a joint venture, and the companies had acquired stakes in each other. As part of the agreement, Fiat group — which has other businesses besides cars — got the right to ask GM in the future to buy out the rest of the \$27 billion Italian auto company. Agnelli saw the put as insurance in case he could not turn around his beloved auto business. GM, eyeing the 30% share Fiat commanded in Italy, agreed to the put to make sure DaimlerChrysler (DCX) and Ford Motor Co. (F) would not snap up its Italian partner.

GM blundered big-time. Three years after the Fiat group skidded close to bankruptcy, stubbornly high losses and expected 2004 negative cash flow of \$1.3 billion at the Turin-based car business have raised serious questions about the chances of fixing Fiat Auto. Fiat group, the holding company, will record losses of \$1.5 billion this year and will probably need to raise a fresh \$1.3 billion next year to pay off maturing bonds. "I wouldn't rule out a liquidity crisis in 2005," says Michael Raab, auto analyst at Sal. Oppenheim in Frankfurt.

A WAY OUT

Marchionne has his back to the wall. If he did force GM to honor the put, it's not clear what he would get for Fiat Auto. Some say the price would be negligible but that GM would be stuck with Fiat Auto's \$5.3 billion in debt. Others say Marchionne could reap \$4 billion or more if he gets Fiat to break even in a year or so. In either scenario, GM, facing pension legacies in the U.S. and huge losses in Europe, cannot afford an Italian car company. GM executives say privately that they are willing to tie Fiat up in court for years to avoid the put. "We have good lawyers," says one insider. But a long, nasty court battle could disrupt the joint ventures that have saved both companies billions in purchasing and development costs for engines and transmissions.

Is there a way out? One plausible scenario, say those close to Fiat, is that Marchionne persuades Wagoner to inject

cash into Fiat in exchange for canceling the put. That could pave the way for an Italian state-owned holding company to participate in a capital increase in 2005. "Fiat is in deep, deep trouble. The government expects to be called in," says a Milan banker, adding that the U.S. auto maker might pony up between \$600 million and \$1.2 billion to exit the put. One possible glitch: Sources close to GM say that although it may be willing to provide cash, the company does not want to be part of any deal that increases its equity exposure to Fiat.

Whatever form it takes, a final cash injection by GM could yield some advantages for Wagoner. It would avoid a protracted legal battle, which could poison GM's commercial and industrial collaboration with Fiat. Aside from the 10% stake General Motors holds in Fiat, several new models have been designed on joint platforms, including Fiat's all-important third-generation Punto compact, which will be launched in September. The new Opel Corsa will follow on the same platform 18 months later.

A final cash injection would also give GM the opportunity to recoup some of its losses from its Fiat foray — if Marchionne, a turnaround specialist, achieves a miracle. Auto industry experts say the 52-year-old Canadian, who took over in May following the death of Chairman Umberto Agnelli, has the industrial and management savvy to remake Fiat. The problem is, he is starting practically from scratch and needs several years to pull the feat off. To date, Fiat's efforts to restructure have been hampered by near-constant management turmoil. Since 2002 the company has had three group chairmen and four CEOs at Fiat Auto. "The company has lost three years," says one Italian executive close to Fiat. GM in the meantime has written off most of its investment.

Racing against the clock, Marchionne started this summer by firing Fiat managers who had obstructed change and by bringing in top international auto talent — another first for Turin. His new team includes Stefan Ketter, the former head of quality at Volkswagen's U.S. subsidiary, and Karl-Heinz Kalbfell, a former BMW veteran and CEO of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd., who will head Alfa Romeo. Marchionne has taken personal charge of Fiat's weak dealer network outside Italy in the rest of Europe. By overseeing marketing and sales, Marchionne hopes to lighten the load for Fiat Auto CEO Herbert H. Demel, a former Audi chairman who is overhauling the auto maker's industrial operations and lowering Fiat's cost base. "Demel, with his engineering background, is the guy to push Fiat in the right direction," says Christoph Stürmer, senior auto analyst at market researcher Global Insight in Frankfurt. Stürmer says remaking Fiat will still take two to three years.

IMAGE PROBLEM

Some better models are finally coming out of Fiat's design and engineering studios. The snappy new \$11,000 Panda

from the Alfa Digest

Tech Topics

Source for 164 Fuel Rail Hose and Clamps!

You will need: Eight VW fuel injection clamps - part # N-024-122-2, about \$10 BMW fuel injection hose 8x13 - part # 22/01, about \$12 for 3 feet. I've had this combination for the past month, in hot & cold weather expansion & contraction, with excellent results. I previously used cheap Kragen FI clamps, which had to be tightened every couple of days until they couldn't be tightened anymore - and they still leaked. The VW clamps keep a constant tension and are a better fit with the BMW hose. — Cuadra

GTV-6 Voltage Drop

A voltage drop may be caused by the alternator, regulator, alt. diodes, or wiring problem. A simple check for alternator diodes, is to connect your multimeter across the battery (or to any other convenient place), set the meter to measure AC volts on a low range (0-1 volt). You should read 0.5v or less, anything more indicates bad diodes. Here is a useful link for diagnosing automotive electrical systems with a DMM:

www.fluke.com/application_notes/automotive/beatbook.asp?AGID=1&SID=103 (Click on charging systems)

There is a way to test the alternator on the car by getting it to go to full output by bypassing the voltage regulator, but unless you know what you are doing and are very careful with this procedure, you can do some serious damage. -- Jeff Greenfield

Detecting Battery Drain Cause

First, a few caveats:

1. Don't perform any amp or voltage draw test on a freshly re-charged battery. If you have to re-charge the battery, give it a day with the negative cable disconnected to stabilize the charge before you test.
2. Don't turn the engine over or turn on engage any equipment or accessory that will draw much over 6 or 8 amps during this test as it will probably damage your multimeter, or blow the meter's fuse at a minimum.
3. I have found that most Bosch ECUs will draw between 10-20 mA at all times.
4. Most non-Bosch Alfas draw around 150 ma at rest.
5. Most Bosch injected Alfas draw around 170-180 mA at rest.

The Test:

1. Insert the red test lead to the A or mA socket of your multimeter, insert the black lead to the "Com" socket.
2. Disconnect the negative cable of the battery. Connect the Red lead to the negative terminal of the battery and the Black lead to the negative cable terminal end.
3. Position the multimeter switch to "mA/A dc" position.
4. The reading should be between 150-180 mA, yours is probably higher if you are performing this test as your Alfa is experiencing a current draw.
5. Start pulling fuses one at a time until you find the circuit that is causing the current draw.

6. If you aren't getting any current drop from any of the fuses, you will have to look at circuits that are not fused: Alternator (on some cars), starter, or possibly one or more ECUs.

A word of advice: Check the brake lights! I would estimate that one car in five that...the battery is going dead over a few days or less is due to a maladjusted or faulty brake light switch. I have seen ECUs that for some reason have inordinately high draw even though the unit is functioning perfectly otherwise. I would suggest that all Bosch injected Alfas...would benefit from the installation of a battery cut off switch of some type. I generally install the adapter switch that is intended to be installed on the negative terminal of the battery. It's much more economical than replacing an ECU or a battery. -- Rex Chalmers

U.S. Underappreciation of GTV6

Should one keep his early GTV6 original or install a 3 litre, etc? My answer would be to keep as original as possible if you wish to maintain or enhance value. This leads me to the impression I get in reading this and other US sourced forums that the GTV6 is undervalued in the US. I appreciate that the bulk of production obviously went to Alfa's biggest market: the USA, however elsewhere they were in effect a 'cheap exotic', with a meaningful race winning pedigree in UK, Mainland Europe, and Australia, plus taking speed records. They were a relatively expensive and comparatively rare car in just about every other market (including Italy) with the added attraction of the history and tradition of the Alfa Romeo brand. They had at the time quite radical exotic looks and engineering (not the trim and body finish) of Ferrari-bearing in mind it is an 'old school Alfa', designed by the same engineers as many Ferraris (and old Lancias). My Ferrari Testarossa is mechanically made of no better materials, is finished no better engineeringwise and indeed displays many of the same foibles and faults (including dodgy electrics, such as part time electric window operation, obstructive gearshift until warmed up). In 2.5 litre form as opposed to 5 litre 12 cyl in the Testarossa, my GTV6 is faster in some parts of my favourite test circuit, mainly because it is more nimble and sufficiently quick engine wise. It is horses for courses. While I appreciate the GTV6 will not shine at traffic light GP or on ramp acceleration battles (I wouldn't take on a WRX STI, or an EVO with even the Ferrari in these situations.), for an old car they perform very well and still retain that special feel. GTV6's were far from the perfect car, even when new, but they represent the last of the Alfa performance rwd coupes, had a great pedigree, were sufficiently quirky to make them interesting, and represented an 'engineer's car', before the cost accountants and marketing people took over at Fiat. No wonder they lost money on them for what they sold them for. And of course they were reasonably rare everywhere else but the USA. -Makes me jealous when I see the prices. Keep it stock and it hopefully will retain or grow in value, disappointing performance (to you guys), poor a/c, warts and all. — Richard Jones, New Zealand



Sotherby's at Maranello: Classic cars and Memorabilia

Sotherby's has announced that it will hold a landmark sale of cars and related memorabilia at Ferrari's legendary premises in Maranello, Italy. The sale will be held at 6pm on May 23rd in the Ferrari Logistics Building - adjacent to the famous Fiorano test track near Modena.

The first ever auction of such material to be supported by Ferrari, May's sale will include items ranging from historic memorabilia to some of the most important cars ever produced under the aegis of Enzo Ferrari and his successors - from historic racing cars to some of the finest, fastest modern sports cars ever to have graced the road and track, including the F2004 driven by Michael Schumacher in the first five Grand Prix races of 2004, all of which he won.

A Ferrari engineer will vet every car, and a number of items in the sale will be offered direct from the company's own holdings. The Ferrari research and test centre at Maranello is one of the holy sites of the motor racing world, and access is normally strictly limited. Those attending the sale will, however, have a unique opportunity to follow in the tyre tracks of champions and visit the famous centre.

The History of Ferrari

Enzo Ferrari was born in 1898, in Modena. He was taken by his father to a race at the age of 10 and there began his lifelong passion for racing and fast cars. Orphaned at the age of 18, he made a living as a test driver and journalist, and soon came to work for the famous Alfa Romeo company. There he quickly rose through the ranks to become head of the Alfa motor racing division, designing and driving many of the most successful cars of the 1920s.

In 1929, Ferrari formed the Scuderia Ferrari in Modena. In the beginning, the Scuderia was essentially a "club" for people who liked to race, organising racing outings and events for its members. From these informal beginnings, however, the Scuderia quickly developed - first into an official team, racing both cars (mainly Alfas) and motorbikes, and ultimately into the engineering-racing division of Alfa Romeo.

Enzo Ferrari left Alfa Romeo in 1939, and although he was under contract not to use his own name in connection with racing for five years after that, he rapidly began work on developing cars and engines to compete with his former employers. The demands of the war meant that progress was slow, but in 1947 the first independently-produced Ferrari finally emerged from Enzo's workshop. Although the engine was only 1500cc in capacity, it was an ambitious 12 cylinder design - an engine layout which was to define the future engineering history of the marque.

From the earliest days of the Ferrari company, its cars have proudly borne the distinctive emblem of the Prancing Horse - a symbol which originates from Enzo's own successes as a racing driver. Following his victory in an important race in 1923, he met the illustrious Contessa

Baracca who, enchanted by his racing prowess, suggested he adopt her prancing horse symbol as a good luck charm on his cars. The Prancing Horse remains at the forefront of racing achievement to this very day, having graced some of the most distinguished cars in history - most notably, perhaps, those driven by the current and seven-times Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher.

Highlights of the Sale

The sale will be highlighted by the F2004 (chassis number 234), in which Schumacher won the Australian, Malaysian, Bahrain, Imola and Spanish races. The car represents a further evolution of the concepts already seen in the F2003-GA and a further step forward in the history of Ferrari single-seaters. When the F2004 appears at auction next May, it will be the first time that Ferrari has offered a Formula 1 car from the past season. Estimate on request.

At the other end of the spectrum the sale will feature historic racing cars from many important moments in the history of motor sport: Scuderia Ferrari team cars and classic Maserati.

Maserati MCC12

Founded by the legendary Maserati brothers in 1914 in Bologna, today Maserati is one of the world's most fascinating automobile companies. From the outset, the House of the Trident created innovative and winning vehicles, causing a stir in the automotive world. Success came first in competition and later in road-going Gran Turismo cars. Maserati's single-seaters dominated legendary races like the Indianapolis 500 and in 1957 Juan Manuel Fangio won the Formula 1 Championship driving a Maserati.

The sale will include the Maserati MCC12 factory car (chassis number 071), a two-seater long-tail coupe-spider with a long wheel base (2800 mm). It has a typical racing set-up with a removable hard top, powered by a naturally aspirated 12-cylinder 65° V engine that displaces 5998 cc and punches out 465 kW at 7500 rpm. Highly advanced composites and alloys have enhanced its structural rigidity and kept its overall weight to a minimum. This particular model won the 2004 FIA GT championship race at Oschersleben, the first victory for Maserati in 37 years. It is estimated to fetch in excess of £1,200,000.

Ferrari 412 S - 1958

Chief among the highlights of the historic cars in the sale, is the Ferrari 412 S, 1958 #0744, which has an illustrious past in North American racing, having been driven by giants such as Phil Hill, Richie Ginther and John von Neumann. It is a unique car with the most powerful front engine offered by Ferrari at that time. This is without doubt one of the greatest cars ever to be offered for sale.



Eureka Springs 2004

by Janet Hirsch



Photo by Mike Lains.

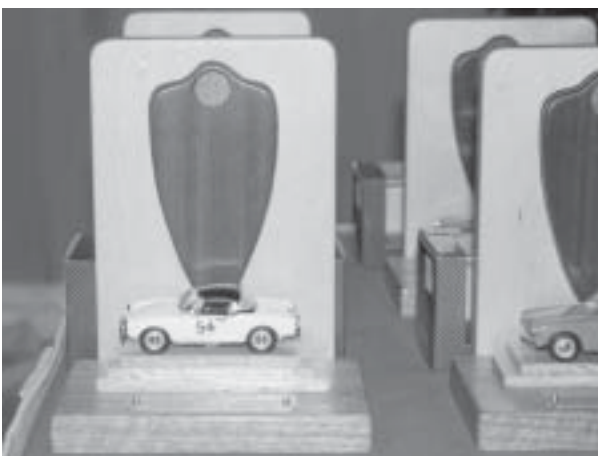


Above: Kernyanski's '64 Giulia



Below: Neidel's Giulia

Below: Autocross competitors.
Foreground: Russ Neely,
background: Phyllis Tilden.



Trophies made by Bruce & Phyllis Tilden.

Fall Fling Results

Rally

1. Rich & Janet Hirsch, St Louis
2. David & Eileen Simmons, Tulsa
3. Bruce & Phyllis Tilden, KC

Concours

1. Steve & Robin Kernyanski, Tulsa, 1964 Giulia Spider
2. John & Laura Greason, Memphis, 1971 Montreal
3. Ralph & Jane Coldewe, St Louis, 1959 Giulietta Spider

Autocross

1. James Perlingere, Tulsa
2. Jamie Perlingere, Tulsa
3. John Justus, KC



Alfisti Cooks!

by Sue Houser

It's a good thing we have a yearly planning meeting. That way we can dig into Jane's chilis, catch up on gossip and plan our next year's schedule. Our club is so busy, we need a Events Chairman to keep us straight! Everyone has neat ideas of what to do and then take on the task of organizing it. What a great group of people! With the Christmas party looming, this month's recipes feature Mike Lain's Stuffed Sweet Potatoes and my Ruben Dip, both good recipes for the holidays.

Mike Lain's Stuffed Sweet Potatoes

(derived from THE JOY OF COOKING)

3 large shapely sweet potatoes
2-3 tablespoons butter
brown sugar
one can crushed pineapple, drained
Bourbon Whiskey
½ teaspoon salt
finely chopped black walnuts

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Wash sweet potatoes, dry them, grease thoroughly and lightly sprinkle with salt. With a fork, pierce each 3 or 4 times to minimize steam build during baking.

Place potatoes on an oven rack and bake for about an hour or until well done. (Some dripping will occur.)

Cut potatoes lengthwise into halves and, with a large pointed spoon, scrape out the cooked pulp and place it in a large mixing bowl.

To the hot pulp add the butter. Mash pulp thoroughly. While still hot, top it in the bowl with a fairly heavy covering of brown sugar. Stir it in completely with a fork until melted. Then add drained pineapple, salt and 1 to 2 shots Bourbon Whiskey. Blend thoroughly with a fork to an even consistency.

Place the potato shells in a large casserole dish or flat pan and refill with sweet potato mixture. Top with a heavy coating of finely chopped black walnuts. Bake at 375 for 30 minutes--or longer if you forget about them.

Sue Houser's Ruben Dip

½ pound corned beef, shredded or chopped
1 (16-ounce) can sauerkraut, well drained
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese*
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese*
1 cup mayonnaise
Party rye bread

Combine all ingredients except bread in a Crockpot, mixing well. Cover. Cook on High for 1 to 2 hours until heated through, stir occasionally. Turn on Low and keep warm in cooker while serving. Put dip on rye bread slices to serve.

**Note that 8 ounces of shredded cheese equals 2 cups.*

If we don't see you at the Christmas Party, we want to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season. I want to thank all the members who keep me supplied with recipes. This is your column. Keep those recipes coming!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Mike, Sue, Sadie, Bill and Scarlett

Note Bene continued from page 1

digit "5" for decades. So we can afford this stuff, or maybe not, save before 2010 or 2012 stock market crash predicted by Channel 9 interviewed author...Harry Dent, "The Next Bubble Boom", I think is the title, something close to that anyway.

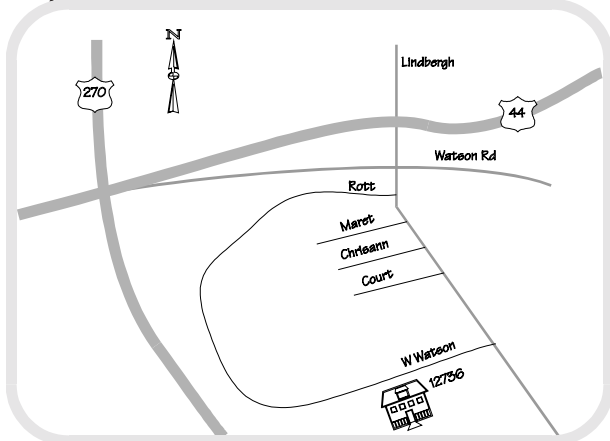
The falling US dollar costs Ferrari money for F-1 team as "Norte America" is the largest market for red F cars. Additionally, Ferrari derives a large portion of its income from the F1 effort, which is negotiated in DOLLARS, and the result of the weakened dollar against the EURO (17% decline since 2003, changing hourly) seriously affects the bottom line. (ref: PRANCING HORSE, #151, "the Scoop" section).

So, Ferraris and Maseratis going to CHINA...import restrictions lifted to open up this 3rd largest car market, 20 million vehicles a year by 2020. WoKee Hong is the man to speak to for F cars in nine Chinese cities. Ferrari of Hangzhou or Ferrari of Congqing in your dreams?

On July 5, 2004, Shanghai store opened by Frog Jodt Todt. Martin Leach is new Maserati CEO. New F-1 race scheduled for 9-26-05 at the Shanghai Intl circuit. About 70 F cars and Masers put down new rubber at the F-1 track. Chinese driver Jiany Tengy drove a Maser Trofeo. (ref: PRANCING HORSE, #152, "The scoop" section).

Olympus has a new Ferrari digital camera in Rosso Red. A 3.2 megapixel design with opening pix of F 2004 F1 car and it plays "the roar of the engine"...Officially sanctioned by Ferrari S.p.A. at \$699. Ferrari Acer laptop is available, called Acer's 3000 LM...we dunno what "LM" stands for other than LeMans. At the toy fair in Nuremberg, a life sized LEGO F car made from 146,000 tiny bricks was fitted with original Bridgestone tires. Yeah, but no VOLPE exhaust!

Map to Houser's for the Christmas Party



Everyone wants a 575M Maranello as a gift, no damn TOY LEGOs! Well, the managing director of a London mortgage firm waited a year for his dream car. Delivery day was messed up by his driving said car outa the showroom floor into a GIANT POTHOLE, damaging a wheel and a suspension after 4.0 minutes of ownership. World record "FUBAR" example!

A Dublin, Ireland executive had his F car torched by a Muslim, destroying both the Italian car and his wife's Honda Civic by gasoline pouring/ignition. The Saddam guy had more Jerry Cans while he was caught trying to do same deed on other cars. Perpetrator was "instructed by Allah" and the local fire chief said, "it was a most unusual incident." (ref: PRANCING HORSE, #152).

Anti Bad guys messages...from the DARWIN AWARDS author Wendy Northcutt. Let the bad guys get COAL for Xmas! Two examples:

a) A French professional pickpocket was dipping into bags at the Seville, SPAIN airport in 1999, little did he know that two US Olympians spotted him, Larry Wade, 110 meter high hurdle expert and Maurice Green, fastest Sprinter on Earth (100 meters in 9.79 sec). The thief had a giant head start, but both athletes ran him down. Episode caught on TV film. The spokesperson for the Spanish Civil Guard dead-panned, "He chose the wrong man".

b) Same year, 1999, was also a bad year in BRAZIL for gangsters. Police car pursuing a gang of thieves, high speed car chase thru San Paulo. Gunfire exchanged. Suddenly, chief bad guy realizes he has grenades to throw at coppers....pin pulled, but wait..the pin was thrown outa his car while the grenade falls on the new (Corinthian?) leather. Cops see what happen and stop wasting bullets. Grenade goes...BLAM, car explodes, one dead chief bad guy with other crooks all wounded. To add insult to injury, all spectators and TV camera folks all doubled over in laughter, in real time after the grenade goes off...such JUSTICE!

Investment Opportunities..in 1941. George Miligan bought a Mercedes 1929 250/SSK for 400 Brit Lbs Sterling. After death, the two seater in bright red with Carlton Carriage Company bodywork came to auction at Goodwood Revival show, Sept 2004 via auction house Bonhams. World record price for ANY car: 4,181,500 Brit Lbs. The car will stay in Europe, but MBZ factory say they did NOT buy the car. Damn, another Xmas present missed.

More gift ideas..Ferrari F1 aftershave or cologne..about \$30 in speedgear catalog or online. Once in a life time Road Rally...About 2,000 miles nonstop from London to Moscow all for Cancer research in the U.K. Vehicle? Only SMART car allowed...contact bluffg@ehelp4u.co.uk. Smart car approved for sale in CALIF this month, so you can practice going to Labadie before Moscow this Winter.

New gal friend for Xmas? I dunno, ask Renault F-1 supremo Flavio Briatore how to. His two ex gals are: supermodels Naomi Campbell, and had baby with Heidi Klum. Now he's dating Nicole Kidman!

Car Movies and DVDs for Xmas reviewed in TOP GEAR magazine, November edition...

a) "LeMans" with Steve McQueen..only two toilet stars, pocket review.."ferget 24 hrs, two is long enuf"

b) "Driven" with Sly Stallone...4 crapper stars..pocket review.."Driven, yes, close to suicide after watching this...& *%^(&^\$"

c) "Land Speed" gets 5 toilet symbol bad review stars. Quote from movie.."at Mach 2 it feels like God himself is trying to rip the skin right off your skull".

d) "Herbie goes to Monte Carlo" with Dean Jones and Don Knotts..VW Beetle is anthropomorphised into a testosterone teenager chasing a sexy Lancia Scorpion with "token redhead model"..the car-guy gets the girl in the end..only one toilet star, so BEST OF THE BUNCH! Sequel? Allegedly would have Herbie "hoovering up lines (cocaine) off mirrors..and choking on his own oil in a disused garage in Stepney" (these Brits know how to WRITE!)

e) "Days of Thunder" stock car junk with Tom Cruise sequel to "Top Gun" in 1980s. I remember laughing with my KC friends at a movie house in Columbia, MO one Summer rain day.. Nicole Kidman (again!) is doctor who succumbs to Tom Cruises oily shirts..yeah right! Brits think this movie plot made up by coke snorting Hollywood types in 1980s. I agree.

f) "Silver Dream Racer" ..motorcycle flick from 1980s with David Essex, Christina Raines and Beau Bridges..Has shower scene with Lymie lead and his new American galfriend..so ask Volpe about it..only 3 toilet stars.

Another gift idea?..Tickets to MARCH 10 to 13th, 2005...Amelia Island 10th annual gathering as ALFA ROMEO is featured marque! Big expensive Ritz-Carlton Beachfront Hotel near Jacksonville, FLA Airport. I dare you to show up in a "Rent-A-Wreck" from Airport car rental place, about 1.5 hrs away. Seriously, go to: entrantliaison@amelia-concours

Sue Houser will do the minutes concerning upcoming St Louis AROC 2005 events, so I guess I gotta do the damn recipes this month..(HA!) She didn't expect me to find one in Ferrari Journal from Giovanni D'Avola de la Chicago..(heheheh!)

Peperoni Arrostiti...

Ingredients: roast Sweet Peppers, 8 sweet bell peppers, 4 cloves of garlic, 3 anchovy filets, one lemon, chopped basil, salt, hot red pepper, and olive oil...

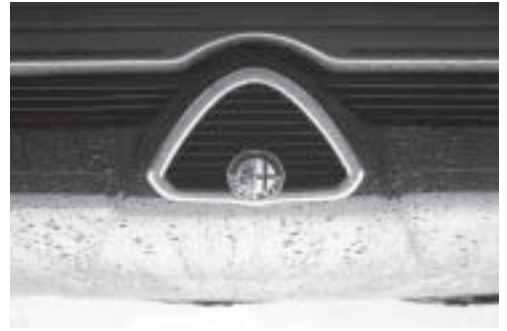
Lab data: Bake or barbeque peppers in hot oven until they wrinkle and wilt. Take em out, let em cool. Discard the stalk, toss out the seeds completely and peel. Cut the peppers into strips and arrange in a bowl into which U have poured some olive oil. Crush the anchovy filets with a fork and add. Season the whole lot with basil, garlic, juice of lemon. Salt and pepper PRN. ("PRN" means "as needed" for U non-medical folks) "This is an excellent antipasto."

Bring good gifts to the Xmas Party (12-12-04)!

Ciao,

P. Dean, MD





!Saluti!
Alfa Romeo Owners of St Louis
470 Belleview
St Louis MO 63119

Dec 12 Christmas Party at Mike and Sue
Houser's in Sunset Hills MO

Dec 2004 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	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	