

Sotto Veloce



Karting outing recap - March 2012

by Wayne Seely

Instead of sitting around drinking and eating at our March club meeting, the trustees decided we'd rather be out on an adrenaline rush. So they organized an outing at the Melrose Park Grand Prix. Boy were they right, it was a blast! We had a good turnout, a mix of club members and track junkies. After getting checked in, suited up and driver orientation we revealed our inner demon - we do have the need for speed, even in March and only going 45mph+; but that close to the ground it seems faster. Just close your eyes at the starting line for just a moment and imagine you're at Blackhawk Farms. But then reality sets in and even though it's not Blackhawk Farms it's almost as much fun and you can even pass in the corners here!! Some of us, yours truly included, needed to get our aggression out and managed to bump off a few contenders in the corner (always mindful of the dreaded black flag). But after a quick nod and an attitude check all ended well. No one penetrated the drywall and everyone came away with smiles on their faces. Thanks to everyone who participated. As we sit around at our next club meeting we can compare our driving skills based on the lap times listed below. A couple used an alias but we know who you are!!

Results, driver & best time

Paul Schermerhorn	36.537	Mitch Lelito	38.745
Ryan Boyle	36.640	Dave Johnson	39.111
Joe Tomasello	36.697	Tony Cavalier	39.137
Robin Zallinger	36.725	Mike McDonald	39.593
Marco Battistoni	37.192	Joe Morse	40.328
Wayne Seely	37.336	Josh Nichols	40.425
Koji Tokanari	37.983	Frank Tomasello	40.803
Vince Shanahan	38.052	Matt Shanahan	41.600
Tim Shanahan	38.259	Laura Sarnelli	41.866
Mike Shanahan	38.281	Eva Sarnelli	41.900
Frank Sarnelli	38.529	Anthony Sarnelli	43.869
Robert Clauss	38.681	Carl Edwards	67.168

Who's planning to go to Toronto for this year's AROC Convention in June? Becky & I had been planning on it, but we're up in the air, now. We really wanted to go on the pre-convention tour, and so I sent in our registration in January. Guess what - the tour was already sold out! We are on a waiting list, but someone would have to cancel to make an opening. We're not sure that we'll make the trip without the tour. We've been making a trip to a different Canadian city each year, but Toronto may have to wait. Just in case - anyone have a car trailer that I can borrow?

Roberto



**Tentative 2012 Schedule of Events**

April 19	Board Meeting followed by Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
May 5	New Glarus Hillclimb (Wisconsin Chapter) Approx 9 AM start
May 17	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
May ?	Gingerman Test & Tune - MI
May 27 or June 3	Spring Tour
June 21	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
July 2	Blackhawk Track Event
July 19	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
July 27	Driver Education Day @ Blackhawk (Austin-Healey Club)
August 5	Club Picnic Barbara Key Park, Lake in the Hills
August 16	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
September 20	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
September 30	Swap Meet @ Besic Motorsports
October 18	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's
November 15	Monthly Meeting @ Spuntino's

Coming up..**April 19th, 2012**

Club meeting (7:00 PM) at:

Spuntino's

516 Higgins Rd

Park Ridge

Come out and join us for food and
conversation in a casual setting!**May 17th, 2012**

Club meeting at Spuntino's

May 27th or June 3rdSpring Tour to benefit NADS - final
date and details next month

The full calendar, a list of club
officers, disclaimers, membership
information, etc. can be found at
www.caroc.com

The Prez Sez

Mostly for the benefit of those who have not participated, here is my observation of what actually happens or what can possibly happen at our events:

The monthly meeting: You can expect vigorous debate on all that is automotive and ,more specifically, an explanation as to why anything other than an Alfa Romeo is worthy of our affection. In short, total objectivity in this regard, There are often numerous languages being spoken at any given time-none of which is Italian but always fun! At times there is a nostalgic video of automotive content which often fuels colorful disagreement. You would rather stay home and do the Bills?

The New Glarus Hillclimb: Well, there is always the potential that a vintage Ferrari or other will suddenly be forced to autocross instead of hillclimb when an errant dairy cow decides to change the agenda. I'm frankly surprised a modern day community has agreed to allow such an event. Sorry, I forgot it's in Wisconsin. If you choose not to participate in the hillclimb NG certainly has appeal as a quaint destination and the roads from Rockton are great fun in an Alfa or other for that matter.

The Besic swap meet and tech session: Here you can buy and sell stuff, observe the technical innovations showcased on a \$500. Lemon's racer and best of all you could have learned to SPICA Italian! I tried not to have some fun since the weather didn't cooperate but I was not successful. I suppose I could have gone to Church or food shopping but I didn't think that would satisfy our mission statement.

The picnic: Great food, great people, in this case great weather. It was free to members and what the heck is there not to like about a picnic? Even the pig didn't complain!

Our track events: I can tell you that when your Alfa is running as it should it's a riot. You can learn to test the limits in a safe environment without having a Barney Fife impersonator indiscriminately change your priorities. It is also the perfect place to showcase the many subtle ways that your Alfa Romeo chooses not to cooperate. When that happens BTW you will get a heck of a lot of free advice which usually does not solve your problem. But, at least you can save face due to technical difficulties.

Our Tours: Usually a vigorous drive on secondary roads to fun destinations. In the past starved Rock, Galena with strategic stops along the way mostly to allow errant Italians to catch up. After all It's hard to find good espresso along these secondary roads! Eventually we regroup and have lunch and cheer with good friends. It's worthy to note that the spring tour that Carm organizes generates funds the Club donates to the NADS organization. An extremely worthy cause! **Tony**