

# Sotto Veloce



THE CHICAGO ALFA ROMEO OWNER'S CLUB NEWSLETTER JUNE/JULY 2015

## CAROC at The Autobarn Alfa Romeo



Richard Fisher, Owner of Autobarn Alfa Romeo chatting with Mike and Diane Besic



***"I'm passionate about Alfa Romeo, that's why I wanted this franchise."***—Richard Fisher

If you came out to The Autobarn Alfa Romeo of Evanston 4C debut on June 19th you'd have met Alfa Romeo's most enthusiastic new dealer, Richard Fisher. To say Richard Fisher is an Alfisti is an understatement. "I own them, I drive them, I've raced them, I love them" said Fisher. "I'm passionate about Alfa Romeo and that's why I wanted this franchise".

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## **CAROC at The Autobarn Alfa Romeo**

***“This is the only place where you can not only see a 4C but you can also sit in it and drive a 4C.” —Richard Fisher***

If you wanted to feel good about the Alfa Romeo nameplate this was the event for you. A mix of old and new Alfa's adorned the showroom floor, including two 4C's, a GTV-6, Spiders and more. CAROC member vehicles assembled outside again mixed in with yet another 4C.

Unlike other Alfa Romeo dealers around the area that have their 4C's locked up or roped off, The Autobarn was encouraging the guests to climb in and get a feel for the cars. “This is the only place where you can not only see a 4C but you can also sit in it and drive a 4C.” said Fisher. Just an observation, you need to be pretty flexible to look good getting in or out of a 4C, it's easier said than done.

As if the collection of Alfa Romeo's on hand wasn't enough, the Italian menu that was served was over the top. Countless trays of food were brought out all evening with each course of food being more delicious than the one before. If you went home hungry it was your own fault.

Thank you for a great party  
Richard, good luck!



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## Evening at Slick Track—June 6th

**Members of every age, shape and size showed up for an evening of slick track racing in Sugar Grove.**

For those of you who have never come out for this event, “The Wrangler” (Adult) Slick Track is Illinois 1st slick road course. This is a smooth concrete road course designed to let each go-kart drift through the turns. Don't even try to steer through the turns, you'll end up facing the wrong direction. Instead you use a combination of the brake and throttle to drift the car through the turns and that's when the fun begins.

Up to eight adults can race together although that night we ran with only four. All races are timed. Drivers get race results after each race. Dave Johnson was the fastest man on the track all night at one point setting the days best lap time of all racers.

For our younger members they drove the Rookie go-karts (kids 6 thru 9 years old). These go-karts are gas powered like the adult go-karts but only smaller. It's kids only on that track at that point but they still negotiate the same slick track as the adults.

After everyone had their chance at racing the club moved on down the road to Schmidt's Towne Tap in Elburn for a bite and a brew.

Come on out next year and bring the family for an incredibly good time.



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## The Pres Sez-

Allow me to introduce Chuck Schmidt. Chuck is a long time member who has recently become more active in club activities. (This working for a living stuff really gets in the way of what we deem important. Ed.)

Most importantly, Chuck has volunteered to resume production of the Sotto Veloce. You are reading his inaugural issue and I think it came out great. If you have not met him, come by some day and introduce yourself. Bring some thoughts for contribution to the next issue.

As you can see, we had a great turnout for Autobarn's kickoff event. Richard served up some great food and spirits and 4 new ALFA 4 C's. I think the 4 C's lifted spirits as well. Seeing Dave Johnson get out of the car with a mile-wide grin after his 20+ minute run up and down Sheridan Road would certainly confirm this.

Coming up, less than a week away, we have our annual trek to spectacular Blackhawk Farms Raceway for our lapping/timing event. This year, for the first time we are co-sponsoring the event with the Chicago Healy Club thanks to the efforts of John Saccameno of Sport and Specialty, Inc. It's on Thursday July 2nd if you have not noticed. Our organizing committee has worked overtime to promote the event and make sure it is as enjoyable as any we've done before. Stretch out your holiday weekend and come out and join us.

And of course, don't forget our annual picnic at Barbara Key Park, Lake In The Hills, on Sunday August 8th.

Going forward, Steve Crowley mentioned to me he would like to see more presentations at our monthly meetings. In the past we had appraisers, specialty insurers, visits to shops and the like. I think he's right. If you have an interest that you might want to have presented to the group, bring it up and we'll see if it can be put on the schedule. One that pops into my mind would be Iron Gate Motor Condos out in Aurora.

If interested or if you have any comments or complaints, drop me a note at: [dsbert4978@aol.com](mailto:dsbert4978@aol.com)

**Dennis**

## Member Meeting



**July 16, 2015**

Avanti Caffé in Mt Prospect on Elmhurst Rd, just south of Higgins.

Address: 1900 S. Elmhurst Rd. in Mt Prospect, IL

## Upcoming Events:

**July 2:** Blackhawk Farms Challenge Track Event

**August 9:** Club Picnic Barbara Key Park, Lake in the Hills

**August 20:** Club Meeting, Avanti Caffé in Mt Prospect

**September 6:** Board of Directors Meeting, Panera Bread—Deer Park

**September 17:** Club Meeting, Avanti Caffé in Mt Prospect

**September 19:** European Autoschau 2015 Concours, Village Tavern of Long Grove

## Italian Vehicle US Sales by Brand



US Light Vehicle Sales by Brand	May-15	May-14	5-mos. 2015	5-mos. 2014
<b>Alfa Romeo</b>	40	-	295	-
<b>Fiat</b>	3,867	4,771	18,661	20,494
<b>Ferrari</b>	177	176	885	878
<b>Lamborghini</b>	63	61	315	305
<b>Maserati</b>	1,341	1,144	4,330	4,476

Source: Automotive News Data Center

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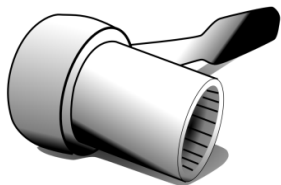
## **CAROC Members Classifieds**

For Sale: 1987 Alfa Romeo Spider Quadrifoglio luxury trim package silver on gray leather including factory hard top, custom wooden MOMO steering wheel & gear shift, new tires, nose bra, bikini cover & full cover, garaged, no winters, rust free original, fun ride pulls strongly & idles smoothly. 37,240 miles

**\$15,000 O.B.O. Rockford, IL [dek\\_cmk@yahoo.com](mailto:dek_cmk@yahoo.com)**



Have something to sell or are looking to buy? Send information to [AlfaDawg86@gmail.com](mailto:AlfaDawg86@gmail.com)



***TECH TIPS***  
***Coming Soon!***

By Mike Basic